

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Volume 2, No.305 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2005

# Iraq to seal borders during Shiite holiday

Action taken as post-election violence escalates, killing 43

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## Freezing in Afghanistan

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Lance Cpl. Dan Robert, squad automatic weapon gunner with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, charges through the deep snow of the Hindu Kush mountains during cordon-and-search operations as part of Operation Spurs, a combined offensive with coalition and Afghanistan troops. About 60 civilians have died from conditions created by Afghanistan's recent cold weather.

RICH MATTINGLY/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

### World

**Togo coup d'état:** Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo was to join four other West African leaders in Togo to press army-installed President Faure Gnassingbé to restore constitutional order to the country, officials said Thursday.

Obasanjo and the presidents of Niger, Benin, Mali and Ghana — who Wednesday joined in declaring that the Togolese military had committed a coup d'état by selecting Gnassingbé to succeed his late father — will travel to Lomé on Friday, said Remi Oyo, spokeswoman for the Nigerian president, who is widely respected as an advocate of democratic reform in Africa.

"They are going to read the riot act, and if they [Togolese leaders] do not agree, then sanctions will start immediately," Oyo told The Associated Press.

**Militants in Philippines:** A Philippine commander demanded on Thursday the surrender of Muslim gunmen who attacked an army attachment, triggering fighting that has killed about 50 people, including 20 soldiers.

Thousands of villagers have been displaced in sporadic clashes this week between Philippine forces and fighters loyal to jailed Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari on the southern island of Jolo.

Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, commander of the military's Southern Command, demanded that armed Misuari followers give up their weapons and surrender those responsible for the soldiers' deaths.

**Georgia prime minister:** President Mikhail Saakashvili presented his nominee for prime minister to parliament on Thursday, one week after the late premier, Zurab Zhvania, was found dead in a Tbilisi apartment, apparently from carbon monoxide poisoning, but lawmakers postponed the confirmation vote for one day.

As American FBI agents investigated the apartment where Zhvania was found dead, Saakashvili urged lawmakers to approve Finance Minister Zurab Nogaideli as the new premier, but the parliament adjourned until Friday without voting to approve him. Saakashvili said that a major task for Nogaideli's Cabinet would be to create new jobs.

**U.N. sexual exploitation scandal:** Congo's government Thursday welcomed the United Nations' move to stop U.N. peacekeepers from sexually exploiting Congolese women and girls in this war-torn Central African nation.

In a letter to the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday, Secretary-General Kofi Annan spelled out a number of measures taken by the United Nations and its Peacekeeping Department to tackle the problem of sexual abuse, including a non-fraternization policy for peacekeepers and a curfew for military contingents.

Annan also said the peacekeeping mission needs another 100 military police and French-speaking investigators to improve enforcement.

**Madrid car bombing:** The day after a car bomb attributed to the Basque separatist group ETA injured 43 people near downtown Madrid, the government on Thursday ruled out any peace talks before violence ends.

"So long as the terrorists continue practicing terror, there is no possibility other than hunting them down, pursuing them, arresting them and jailing them," said Jordi Sevilla, the minister responsible for relations between the central government and Spain's 17 semiautonomous political regions.

In recent public comments, government



**Nepal government:** A riot policeman detains human rights activist Basu Devkota during a protest against Nepal's royal government in Katmandu, Nepal, on Thursday. Police in Nepal's capital arrested 12 rights activists and quashed a rally to protest the king's emergency rule Thursday, while Maoist rebels in the southwest killed five policemen and freed comrades from a jail during a raid on a town.

Officials have said ETA must not only declare a cease-fire but also give up its weapons caches.

**Paris airport collapse:** A decision on whether to fully or partially demolish the rest of a terminal roof that collapsed at Paris' main airport, killing four people, will be made public in about two months, the airport operator said.

The rebuilding costs after either option are about the same, "a little more" than \$128 million, said Pierre Graff, head of Airports of Paris, in an interview published Thursday.

"But the complete demolition of the roof, then its reconstruction, would be longer and more disruptive in terms of operations," Graff told the daily Le Figaro.

"The choice of the solution will reply to one condition only: the safety of passengers and staff," he said.

### Business

**WorldCom fraud case:** Jurors at the fraud trial of former WorldCom CEO Bernard Ebbers heard him tell stock analysts in April 2001 — with fraud at the company well under way — that "we do not see any storms on the horizon at this time."

The haze was played by prosecutors in New York on Wednesday, on the third day of testimony by Scott Sullivan, the former chief financial officer at WorldCom, who has implicated Ebbers in its \$11 billion accounting fraud.

The "storms" remark came as Ebbers, apparently veering off his script for the call, voiced frustration at being asked to determine WorldCom's financial "visibility."

Ebbers, 63, is charged with fraud, conspiracy and making seven false filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission, charges that carry up to 85 years in prison. He has denied wrongdoing.

### States

**Patriots' parade arrests:** A prosecutor has a deal for five teenagers arrested during the parade to celebrate the New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory. If they read a book that tells the story of drugs and desperation in a Boston neighborhood and write a report about it, he'll drop the charges.

The book that Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley wants them to read is Michael Patrick MacDonald's memoir "All Souls," about growing up in rough-and-tough projects of South Boston. Part of the deal Conley is offering requires the teens to write a 2,500-word essay about the book.

**Robert Blake trial:** Jurors in the Robert Blake trial heard a retired stuntman describe a murder plot worthy of a Hollywood movie, but the defense noted the witness initially told police he knew of no such scheme.

Ronald "Duffy" Hamblen held the packed Los Angeles courtroom's attention Wednesday as he described how Blake, an old associate on the "Baretta" TV series, contacted him after 20 years of silence to talk and how Blake had married his new wife. He was expected to take the stand again Thursday.

Hamblen, 68, gave the most detailed account yet of Blake allegedly scouting locations for the murder of Bonny Lee Bakley. He said they visited Blake's home and the restaurant near where Bakley eventually was slain in May 2001.

Blake, 71, is accused of shooting Bakley, 44, in a car near his favorite neighborhood restaurant.

**Ga. teens sentenced:** Two middle school students who sickened classmates with a cake containing glue and Tabasco sauce were sentenced in Marietta on Wednesday to probation by a juvenile court judge.

The 13-year-old girls, who initially had faced attempted murder charges, were found guilty of disrupting a public school, a misdemeanor. They were given sentences of nine months each on probation and must write essays to Judge Juanita Steadman on what they learned from the experience.

**Charter school tuition hearing:** The state Department of Education has scheduled a hearing to determine whether U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum must repay a school district for tuition it spent on a cyber charter school for five of his children.

Santorum, R-Pa., withdrew his children from the Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School after officials in the Harrisburg School District questioned why they were paying to educate Santorum's children at the school.

School officials estimated they spent about \$100,000 on tuition for the senator's children since 2001, even though they spend most of the year in Santorum's Virginia home.

Pennsylvania law requires school districts to pay for students in their district who opt to attend cyber schools. Districts must pay 80 percent of their per pupil costs as tuition for cyber students.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Hamblen

Ebbers

# Iraq to close borders during Shiite holiday

## Car bomb misses U.S. convoy, kills 2 Iraqis

By MARIAM FAM  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — With violence on the rise after the Jan. 30 election, Iraqi officials announced they would seal the country's borders for five days this month around a major Shiite religious holiday. Last year during the holiday, about 180 people were killed in suicide attacks at Shiite shrines.

Also Thursday, a car bomb detonated by remote control exploded in central Baghdad, killing two Iraqis but missing a U.S. military convoy as insurgent violence claimed at least 43 lives. Clashes between Iraqi police and rebels erupted along a major highway southeast of the capital.

A statement by the office of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said all borders would close from midnight Feb. 17 until midnight Feb. 22.

The announcement said only that the decision was taken "to enhance the security and guarantee the Iraqi citizens' safety."

Thursday marks the first day of the Islamic month of Muharram.

The 10th of Muharram, or Ashura, is the holiest day of the Shiite Muslim calendar, marking the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad, in a 7th century battle for leadership of the Islamic world.

During last year's Ashura ceremonies, which took place March 10, simultaneous explosions ripped through crowds of worshippers at Shiite Muslim shrines in Baghdad and Karbala, killing at least 181.

Hundreds of thousands of Shiites around the world traditionally gather at Hussein's tomb in Karbala and other Shiite holy sites in Iraq during Ashura.

The car bomb detonated on Tahrir Square in the heart of Baghdad, shattering the vehicle and setting several other cars on fire. At least two Iraqis were killed and two others were wounded, a U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. James Hutton said.

An American military patrol had just passed through the area but there were no U.S. casualties, Hutton said.

Most of the attacks Thursday were against Iraq's security forces, part of an apparent insurgent campaign to undermine public confidence after police and soldiers managed to prevent catastrophic attacks during the election.

The biggest attack occurred in Salman Pak, 12 miles southeast of Baghdad, when insurgents attacked Iraqi policemen who were on foot for weapons, showering them with machine-gun fire, rocket-propelled grenades and mortar rounds, police said.

Seven Iraqi police were killed in the two-hour gunbattle and eight were wounded, U.S. officials said. American troops evacuated some of the wounded, the U.S. State Department said. Residents said American helicopters were prowling the skies.

"We were on patrol to search



A man looks at the scene of an early morning car bomb, which exploded Thursday in Tahrir Square in central Baghdad. At least two Iraqis were killed and two were wounded in the blast. An American military patrol had just passed through the area, but there were no U.S. casualties.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,453 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,110 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,315 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,001 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Wednesday in an ambush north of Baghdad.

■ A soldier died Tuesday of a gunshot wound at the Balad base.

■ A soldier was killed Sunday while on patrol in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Capt. Sean L. Brock, 29, Redondo Beach, Calif.; died Feb. 2 from wounds received in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Zachary R. Wobler, 24; Ottawa, Ohio, died Sunday in Mosul, Iraq, when his patrol came under fire; assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

for weapons," wounded police officer Waad Jassim said from his hospital bed. "When we arrived, they opened heavy fire at us. There were many of them, and some were charging out of houses."

Elsewhere, bodies of 20 Iraqi truck drivers who had been shot were found dumped on a road, their hands bound behind their backs, police Capt. Ahmed Ismail said. Some of the trucks were owned by the government, Ismail said.

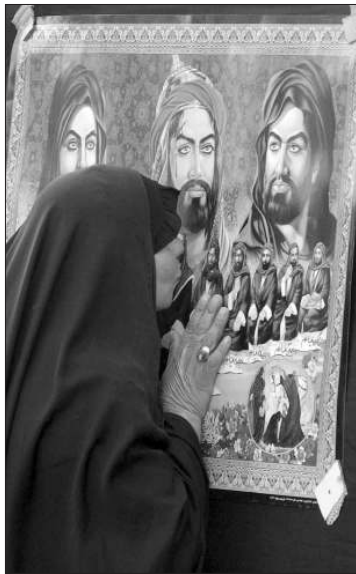
Gunmen fired on an Iraqi police patrol Thursday in Baquba, north of Baghdad, triggering a gunbattle that killed a civilian bystander and wounded two police officers, officials said.

Five bodies in Iraqi National Guard uniforms were found Thursday in the insurgent strong-

hold of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad. Hospital director Ala al Ani said residents reported that the slain men were among 13 guardsmen who went missing recently. Two insurgents were killed Thursday in clashes with U.S. forces north of Ramadi, residents and hospital officials said.

A strong explosion shook the Rahmaniya neighborhood of western Baghdad late Thursday, and residents said the blast occurred near a small Shiite mosque. Witnesses said there were casualties but police had no report.

A videotape obtained Thursday by Associated Press Television News showed gunmen killing four blindfolded men who identified themselves as Iraqi policemen. The video showed the four young men sitting cross-legged



AP photos

A woman kisses an image of Imam Hussein in the center of a religious poster in the Sadr City area of Baghdad. Hussein was beheaded in nearby Karbala in 680 AD in a battle over the line of succession to the Prophet Mohammed that is celebrated by Shiites as the festival of Ashura. Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi announced the nation's borders would be closed during the holiday to prevent violence.

on the floor of a room. A date stamp on the video indicated it was recorded Feb. 3.

It was unclear where the police-

men had been captured. The men in the video were seen in what appeared to be a remote desert area, kneeling down with their hands tied behind their backs and wearing blindfolds.

Several gunmen with assault rifles standing just steps away from the captives fired repeatedly at the men by one, shooting them in the back of their heads.

Elsewhere, a body was found riddled with bullets in Mosul, police said, and in the northern oil center of Kirkuk, a roadside bomb exploded several minutes after a U.S. military patrol passed, killing one Iraqi, police said. In Baghdad, gunmen shot to

death a hospital recipient. Meanwhile, Osama bin Laden's top deputy criticized the U.S. concept of freedom in an audiotape

aired Thursday night on the TV satellite station Al-Jazeera. But it appeared the tape was just a replay of an old tape, previously made public earlier this month.

On the tape, Ayman al-Zawahiri criticized the American concept of freedom, saying the United States actually was acting

as an invader and occupier. However, the audiotape appeared to be identical to the transcript of an al-Zawahiri tape that was posted on an Islamic web site on Feb. 2. Staff at the television station said they first heard of the tape from a news agency and initially believed it was new.

*Insurgents  
attacked Iraqi  
policemen who  
came to look for  
weapons southeast  
of Baghdad,  
showering them  
with machine-gun  
fire,  
rocket-propelled  
grenades and  
mortar rounds.*

# Iraq war taking big toll in Vermont

BY JONATHAN FINER

The Washington Post

ESSEX, JUNCTION, Vt. — By now, the choreographed ceremonies are as painfully familiar as the arctic chill that crept across the Green Mountains late last month, when 400 more members of the Vermont National Guard went sent to war.

Teary well-wishers packed inside the hangar-size pavilion at the Champlain Valley Exposition and Fairgrounds. Soldiers loaded Ryder trucks with olive-drab duffel bags before taking their places in formation. The state's three-member congressional delegation, which voted unanimously against invading Iraq, saluted the departing troops in speeches.

Since early November, the scene has been repeated seven times in Vermont — one of the nation's smallest states, but one that is absorbing some of the war's biggest impact.

Vermont's National Guard and reserve units have the second-highest mobilization rate per capita, trailing only Hawaii's. And, with seven active-duty servicemen and women and 100 members who have died in Iraq, it has lost more residents as a percentage of its population than any other state.

While military service is a source of pride in local communities, the activation of 1,400 troops also has taken a heavy toll on hundreds of families and left small businesses and police barracks understaffed.

But even as flags and yellow ribbons adorn homes here, antiwar activists are uniting. A recent petition drive succeeded in placing a resolution opposing the use of Vermont's Guard in Iraq on the agendas of about four dozen town meetings, which take place statewide on March 1.

"All of this has certainly had an impact on a broad cross section of the Vermont community, economically, socially and in every other way," said some 300 delegates so far away from such a small state, the war touches the lives of every one of us," said Peter Clavette (D), the mayor of Burlington. Vermont has a population of 619,000 residents, according to census estimates. The 400 sol-

## Reservists called up

(State total, then per 10,000 in population)

Hawaii, 3,275, 26.0
Vermont, 1,394, 22.5
Mississippi, 5,164, 17.9
Montana, 1,526, 16.6
Idaho, 2,052, 15.0
South Dakota, 1,141, 14.9
Arkansas, 3,622, 13.3
Kansas, 3,054, 11.2
North Dakota, 704, 11.1
South Carolina, 4,411, 10.6
Wyoming, 509, 10.2
New Hampshire, 1,294, 10.0
Louisiana, 4,501, 10.0
West Virginia, 1,767, 9.8
Rhode Island, 1,040, 9.7
Tennessee, 5,583, 9.6
Nebraska, 1,660, 9.5
Alabama, 4,177, 9.3
Iowa, 2,711, 9.2
Utah, 2,112, 9.0
Indiana, 5,315, 8.6
Washington, 5,069, 8.3
Maine, 1,033, 7.9
New Mexico, 1,422, 7.6
Missouri, 4,100, 7.2
Minnesota, 3,412, 6.7
Alaska, 437, 6.7
Oklahoma, 2,259, 6.4
Kentucky, 2,647, 6.4
North Carolina, 5,393, 6.4
Pennsylvania, 7,750, 6.3
Georgia, 5,352, 6.2
Ohio, 6,113, 5.3
Nevada, 1,309, 5.3
Nevada, 1,131, 5.0
Oregon, 1,729, 4.9
New Jersey, 4,104, 4.8

SOURCE: Defense Department

diers from the 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain) and other units who deployed in January are bound for Iraq after a training stop in Mississippi. About 200 National Guardsmen who spent the past year in Iraq left this week for home.

About 600 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion of the 10th Armored Regiment are serving in Kuwait. Other Vermont units have been sent to Afghanistan or Saudi Arabia on tours that generally last 18 months, according to the Vermont National Guard.

"As for which units get called up, it tends to come down to specialties," said John Goheen, a spokesman for the National Guard Association in Washington, an advocate for Guard members. "Vermont has some unique specialties, like its mountain warfare unit. Other states haven't been hit as hard."

Currently, just under 50 percent of Vermont's Guard force is mobilized. But to Paul Adamczak, manager of Blue Seal Feeds and Needs, it sometimes means as if half of the state is overseas. Nine yellow ribbons hang in the seventh-floor windows of his plant in Richmond, one for every employee called up by the Guard in the past three months.



Iraqi Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, second right, stands with Planning Minister Mehdi al-Hafez, center, and Liberal Sunni politician Nasser al-Chaderchi, left, in Baghdad on Wednesday. Final election results were to be announced Thursday, but an Iraqi election commission official said Wednesday it had to be postponed.

# Alliances form before final tally of Iraq votes

BY MARIAM FAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Turbaned men in clerical robes huddle with politicians in Western business suits, hammering out the future of Iraq in backroom dealmaking.

The political horse-trading has begun even before final results of the Jan. 30 national elections are announced.

None of the 111 candidate lists is likely to end up with the two-thirds majority needed to make key decisions, so much of the face of the new Iraq — at least in the coming transition period — will be molded by alliances and deals.

Partial returns point to a victory by the United Iraqi Alliance, a Shiite-dominated coalition tacitly endorsed by top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Leaders of the alliance, who have likely won the biggest bloc of seats in the incoming 275-member National Assembly, are now focusing on whom to elect for prime minister.

The assembly will elect a largely ceremonial president and two deputies, who in turn will choose

the prime minister. The assembly then ratifies the choice.

U.S.-backed interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, who leads a rival ticket, is believed to be seeking to hold onto the position.

But partial returns show his party trailing both the Shiite ticket and a coalition of major Kurdish parties.

The United Iraqi Alliance said it wants the prime minister's job, and Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani has announced his candidacy for president. The Shiite coalition is made up of Shiite religious parties and other political groups that include some Sunnis and Kurds.

Francis Brooke, an adviser to United Iraqi Alliance member Ahmad Chalabi, said that Chalabi, of the Iraqi National Congress party, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, of the Dawa party, and Abdel Abdul-Mahdi, of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution, are all seeking the alliance's nomination for the position of prime minister.

But the alliance's key strength — its diversity — is perhaps its weakness, too. Abdul-Mahdi and al-Jaafari

come from Islamic-oriented parties with close links to Iran. Chalabi is a secular-minded Shiite and former ally of the Pentagon who later fell out of favor with Washington.

The Kurds — who so far are running second — could prove to be a critical factor in the dealmaking.

With the three big names appearing to be the United Iraqi Alliance, the Kurdish list and Allawi's ticket, the Kurds' endorsement could tip the scale.

Mullah Bakhtiyar, a senior official from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said a committee from the Kurdish list was holding talks with the different political groups. So far indications show "a strong agreement" between the Kurdish list and the al-Sistani-backed Alliance, he said, though no deal had been officially struck.

An alliance between the blocs would likely give them enough power to deliver the presidency to the Kurdish list and the premiership to the alliance.

That would likely leave the third top post of parliament speaker or for either Allawi or al-Yawer, Bakhtiyar speculated.

## Woman's story of hero GI turns out to be hoax

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — A woman concocted a heartbreaking story of how her soldier husband died a hero in Iraq — and then admitted the story was all a hoax.

"I need some serious counseling," 24-year-old Sarah Kenney told The Daily Sentinel newspaper on Wednesday editions. "This is the most serious lie I've ever told, but I've been caught in many lies."

The touching story of how Spc. Jonathan Kenney took a bullet meant for an Iraqi child on Jan. 29 was reported by a score of Colorado media outlets. News releases were sent to them by the nonprofit group Homefront Heroes. In reality, there is no record of a soldier with that name dying in Iraq. Sarah Kenney is married to a man named Michael Kenney, and he is neither currently in the military nor serving in Iraq.

Mont County District Attorney Pete Hainzauer said Tuesday that he had convened a team of investigators to look into the hoax and see if any laws were broken.

From The Associated Press

## U.S. general: Insurgents likely downed Brit plane

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The deadly crash of a British military cargo plane in Iraq on Jan. 30 most likely was caused by hostile fire rather than by mechanical failure, a senior U.S. general said Wednesday.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, told reporters at the Pentagon that it seemed improbable that a shoulder-fired missile could have brought down the plane. A more likely explanation, he said, would be small arms fire or rocket-propelled grenades.

Smith, a veteran combat pilot, stressed that he was expressing his personal opinion.

The British government, which is investigating the crash, has not said what may have caused it. Smith is the first U.S. official to speculate publicly on the possibility of a hostile attack.

All 10 people aboard the plane were killed in the crash, which happened north of Baghdad. It was the deadliest single event for British forces since the Iraq war began in March 2003.

"I personally believe there may have been either hostile action or something that happened inside the aircraft, but I doubt that it was mechanical in nature, if you know what I mean," Smith said.

Smith is not a participant in the British investigation.



# NATO agrees to expand Afghanistan mission

BY PAUL AMES

The Associated Press

NICE, France — NATO defense ministers agreed Thursday on a major expansion of the alliance's peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan by sending troops to the west of the country, a key step in a plan to extend NATO's mission across the whole country.

Ministers also narrowed differences that have stalled the allied training mission in Iraq, with several nations offering to contribute instructors operating either inside or outside the country.

Agreement on the Afghan mission came after Italy, Spain and Lithuania committed hundreds of troops to support U.S. forces that will switch to NATO command. The deal ends months of delay while allied military planners sought the extra forces.

"NATO will now proceed to further expand the International Security Assistance Force into the west," said alliance Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. "We have the resources we need to expand."

The western deployment will double the area of Afghanistan under NATO's command, to cover just over half the country.

De Hoop Scheffer told a news conference 900 troops would deploy to Herat and three other western cities, including 500 fresh troops and 400 deploying from elsewhere in Afghanistan. NATO currently operates only in Kabul, and the north with 8,400 troops.

French Lt. Gen. Jean-Louis Py, who commands the NATO force, said the move to the west should be completed at least one month before nationwide Afghan elections expected by July.

De Hoop Scheffer said there was a broad agreement that NATO's mission would gradually cover the whole country, integrating with the separate, U.S.-led mission currently fighting remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida. Allied military experts hope that could be completed by early 2006.

Washington has long sought such a fusion, hoping to free up the thousands of frontline



French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie, left, and NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, second left, speak with Norwegian Defense Minister Kristin Krohn Devold, center, as U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld listens, during a group photo at an informal meeting of NATO defense ministers in Nice, France, Thursday. NATO defense ministers edged closer Thursday to agreeing on plans for expanding their peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan and narrowing differences over the allied training mission in Iraq.

troops it still has in Afghanistan. However the U.S. will keep some units in Afghanistan, serving with NATO or hunting Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders believed hiding along the mountainous Afghan-Pakistani border.

Several allies offered to contribute more to NATO's training mission for Iraq's armed forces, which has been held up by a lack of instructors.

De Hoop Scheffer said he wants to announce that all 26 were participating in that operation — either by training inside or out-

side the country, or by funding — by Feb. 22 when President Bush joins other NATO leaders for a summit in Brussels.

The progress in both Iraq and Afghanistan comes amid a drive by the new Bush administration to rebuild relations still smarting from Iraq war divisions. Although officials stressed a much improved atmosphere at the meeting some differences remained.

French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie stressed France's training offer for Iraq was "bilateral" rather than being part of NATO's efforts. And she insisted further expansions of NATO's mission in Afghanistan should go gradually.

## U.S. hopes for more trainers in Iraq

The Associated Press

NICE, France — U.S. allies in Europe have so far mustered fewer than 100 trainers to go to Iraq to assist in the modest NATO mission there, but a top American general said Thursday he was hopeful they would offer several dozen more in the coming weeks.

"We've asked for more than what has been provided so far," said Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who oversees the effort to train and equip Iraq's security and military forces. Petraeus joined U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Nice.

Later Thursday, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, speaking to reporters in Nice, said he hopes to see the total NATO commitment in Iraq rise to about 360, a figure that includes security personnel to protect the trainers.

The NATO mission in Iraq, while small, aims to develop Iraq's military on a strategic level, rather than train individual soldiers.

Officials say roughly 100 trainers are in Iraq now. Some are Americans working under the NATO banner, but precise figures were unavailable. Petraeus said the goal is to get that to 159 trainers from NATO nations.



RICH MATTINGLY/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division leap from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter hovering above the snowy hills of Morangal during Operation Spurs, a combined offensive with coalition and Afghan troops. Afghans say this year's snowfall is the heaviest in years.

## Deadly chill sweeps across Afghanistan

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A huge rock loosened by rain and snow tumbled onto an aid group's vehicle, killing the Afghan driver and injuring three foreigners, officials said Thursday, as freezing weather and disease left about 60 people dead throughout the country.

The rock crushed the vehicle after tumbling down a mountain-side Wednesday in the village of Sufi Khel, said Abdul Hanan, an official with the Afghan Highway Police.

"The snow and rain made the ground soft and loosened the rock," Hanan said.

Mohammed Fariq Waqfi, head of the Coordination for Humanitarian Assistance, said the driver died at the scene. A Pakistani man suffered a broken arm while two Australian women were less seriously hurt, he said. All were brought to Kabul for treatment.

Afghans say this year's snowfall is the heaviest in years, a

boom for a country plagued by drought but a serious hazard in its mainly mountainous territory. Officials said more than three feet of fresh snow was lying in many areas, cutting off villages and blocking passes.

The harsh weather is also preventing the recovery of bodies from an Afghan airliner which crashed into a mountain during a snowstorm last week, killing all 104 people on board.

In the heart of the Hindu Kush range, four people died in an avalanche near Bamiani city on Tuesday, said Ghulam Saki, a police official.

In neighboring Ghor province, about 30 people have died of a virulent lung infection blamed on the cold conditions, said Deputy Gov. Keramuddin Rezaeada.

Further south, officials in Zabul and Uruzgan province said a total of 24 people, mainly children and the elderly, had died because of the cold.

Wazir Mohammed, the mayor of Shinkay district in Zabul, said blocked roads and scarce supplies meant wheat prices had more than tripled.

# Sexual interrogation tactics used at Gitmo

BY CAROL D. LEONNIG  
AND DANA PRIEST

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Female interrogators repeatedly used sexually suggestive tactics to try to humiliate and pry information from devout Muslim men held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to a military investigation not yet public and newly declassified accounts from detainees.

The prisoners have told their lawyers, who compiled the accounts, that female interrogators regularly violated Muslim taboos about sex and contact with women. The women rubbed their bodies against the men, wore skimpy clothes in front of them, made sexually explicit remarks and touched them provocatively, at least eight detainees said in documents or through their attorneys.

A wide-ranging Pentagon investigation, which has not yet been released, generally confirms the detainees' allegations, according to a senior Defense Department official familiar with the report. While isolated accounts of such tactics have emerged in recent weeks, the new allegations and the findings of the Pentagon investigation indicate that sexually oriented tactics may

## DOD inquiry: Females used suggestive behavior to try to break Muslim men

have been part of the fabric of Guantanamo interrogations, especially in 2003.

The inquiry uncovered numerous instances in which female interrogators, using disguise, pretended to spread menstrual blood on Muslim men, the official said. Separately, in court papers and public statements, three detainees say that women smeared them with blood.

The military investigation of U.S. detention and interrogation practices worldwide, led by Vice Adm. Albert T. Church III, confirmed one case in which an Army interrogator took off her uniform top and paraded around in a tight T-shirt to make a Guantanamo detainee uncomfortable, and other cases in which interrogators touched the detainees suggestively, the senior Pentagon official said.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the report has not yet been made public, said the fake blood was used on Muslim men before they were intended to pray, because some Muslims be-

lieve that "if a woman touches him prior to prayer, then he's dirty and can't pray," Muslim men also believe that contact with women other than their wives diminishes religious purity.

Defense Department officials said they have reprimanded two female interrogators for such tactics. It is unclear whether military personnel, employees of other agencies or private contractors were involved.

The attorney interviews of detainees are the result of a Supreme Court decision last summer that gave the captives access to lawyers and the opportunity to challenge their incarceration in U.S. courts.

In previous documents, detainees have complained of physical abuse, including routine beatings, painful shackling, and exposure to extremes of hot and cold. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld insisted then that detainees were treated "humanely," and Pentagon officials said terrorists were trained to fabricate torture allegations.

Some of the accounts resemble the sexual aspects of the humiliation of Iraqi prisoners at the U.S. prison at Abu Ghraib. Photographs that became public last year showed a servicewoman there holding naked prisoners on a leash and posing next to a pile of naked prisoners.

Pentagon officials said Wednesday that wearing skimpy clothing or engaging in provocative touching and bawling would be inappropriate interrogation techniques.

"I don't see that as being authorized by Secretary of Defense's approved interrogation techniques for Guantanamo," said Col. David McWilliams, a spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, which oversees operations at Guantanamo Bay.

Church's report found that interrogators used sexually oriented tactics and harassment to shock or offend Muslim prisoners, the senior Pentagon official said. The official said that the military would not condone "sexual activity" during interrogation, but that good interrogators "take initiative and are a little creative."

"They are trying to find the key that will get someone to talk to them. Using things that are culturally repulsive is OK as long as it doesn't extend to something prohibited by the Geneva Conventions."

Researcher Julie Tate contributed to this report.

## Rumsfeld won't be investigated in Germany for Abu Ghraib

BY GEIR MOULSON

The Associated Press

BERLIN — German prosecutors said Thursday they won't investigate Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld or other U.S. officials after a group of American lawyers filed a criminal complaint alleging they were responsible for torture at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

Targets of the complaint, filed in November by the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, included Rumsfeld, former CIA director George Tenet and Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the former commander of U.S. forces in Iraq.

U.S. investigations of the Abu Ghraib abuses have not gone far enough, the lawyers argued. Last month, they asked prosecutors also to investigate U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

But German federal prosecutors said primary responsibility for investigating lay with the country where the alleged acts were committed, the home country of the perpetrators or an international court. Only if they were unable or unwilling to intervene would a third country become involved, they said.

A statement from prosecutors there was "no indications that the authorities and courts of the United States have refrained or would refrain" from investigating Abu Ghraib cases — and that it was up to U.S. authorities to determine whether and when to investigate further.

The U.S. group said it chose Germany because it has legislation that allows for the prosecution of war crimes and human rights violations across national borders. Because the United States is not a member of the International Criminal Court, they could not take their case there.

German media have speculated that Rumsfeld would skip an international security conference in Munich this weekend because of the lawsuit, although officials in Washington have said whether or not he would go.

The Abu Ghraib scandal last spring began when photos that showed U.S. soldiers abusing Iraqi inmates became public, causing worldwide outrage.



U.S. Air Force/AP

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld addresses the crew during an award ceremony aboard the Spruance-class destroyer USS O'Bannon on Wednesday in Nice, France. German prosecutors have said they won't investigate Rumsfeld in relation to abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

So far, only low-level military service members have been charged in the abuses at the prison. An investigation headed by former U.S. Defense Secretary James Schlesinger was independent, but it has been criticized because its panel was appointed by Rumsfeld.

An Army investigation headed by Maj. Gen. George Fay said the Army's top commanders in Iraq shared some blame for management failures. For Iraqi soldiers who they received electric shocks, beatings and sexual abuse, and that they were deprived of food and sleep, also were part of the complaint in Germany.

## British soldier says he kept Iraq abuse quiet since no one was hurt

The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A British soldier accused of failing to report abuse of Iraqi detainees told a court-martial Thursday that he did not tell his superiors because the civilians did not appear to be hurt.

Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, 33, testified that when he came upon a soldier driving a forklift truck with a bound Iraqi suspended from it he shouted at him to stop, and that a short time later he did the same when he saw two Iraqis posed to simulate sex.

He didn't report the incidents, he said, because he didn't think that anyone at the camp in southern Iraq would be interested — underlying earlier testimony that portrayed the camp as chaotic and its soldiers as regularly

abusing Iraqi looters — and that the action "wasn't really physically hurting people."

"My section was squeaky clean, and [the camp] was one of dirty infirmaries," he testified.

Kenyon has pleaded no guilty to several counts of failing to report the abuse at a humanitarian aid warehouse. Two of his subordinates also have been facing the court-martial at a British base in Germany.

Kenyon testified that when he came upon Cooley, he cursed at him and ordered him to put the Iraqi down, and that later when he saw a group of soldiers around two Iraqis in a simulated oral sex pose, he did the same.

"I would have been swearing and saying, 'What the [expletive] is happening here' — something along those lines," he testified.

## Reservist convicted of killing wife after returning from Iraq

The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — An Army reservist was convicted of killing his wife, who had hailed him and other soldiers as heroes in a letter to the editor of a local newspaper while he was serving in Iraq.

The jury found Matthew J. Denni, 39, guilty of second-degree murder Wednesday in the shooting death of his wife, Kimberly in March. He had been charged with first-degree murder, but he testified he was in a rage because she was having an affair, and the jury decided the crime was not premeditated.

Her body was found in May in

a footlocker in Denni's van after her brother reported her missing. Prosecutors said her husband had concealed her body for two months.

The night of the shooting, the couple had argued and Kimberly Denni said she was going to go to her boyfriend's house, Denni testified. "I just thought, 'No, I'm not going to let her go,'" he testified. He reached down, opened the drawer and pulled out the gun, Denni said. He said he had not planned to kill her.

Denni faces 15 to 23 years in prison when he is sentenced March 10. The Dennis' daughter, who was 7 when her mother was killed, is in the care of a relative.



# Senators wrestle with carrier reduction

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senators on Thursday lamented Navy plans to decommission one aircraft carrier — assumed to be the USS John F. Kennedy — as a cost-cutting move in the president's proposed 2006 defense budget.

John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Senate Armed Services committee, called the proposal a "dramatic departure" from the 12-carrier standard military officials have upheld for years.

"That level of carriers has been the integral building block, not only for the Navy but for our force structure and planning for forward deployed operations," he said.

During testimony before the committee Thursday, John F. Kennedy's admiral, Vernon Clark called the move a "risk" but said he believes the basic capability of the fleet will not be compromised.

## Admiral calls plan a 'risk,' but says fleet will not be compromised

But Clark said the move will likely shift Navy strategy to having only seven carrier fleets ready for deployment within 90 days. Currently, the service can deploy eight in that time frame.

Clark said if the USS Kennedy is retired, he still hopes to keep two carrier-capable bases active on the Atlantic Ocean. Currently that carrier is the only one based in Florida, while four others are based in Virginia.

"There is a danger in overcentralizing our operations," he said.

"We need two carrier-capable ports on each coast."

Also Thursday, senators criticized the Bush administration for not including costs of new equipment and more Army recruits in the 2006 budget proposal, a move

they say could hurt the services' readiness in the long run.

Not included in the \$419 billion budget proposal are items such as \$3 billion for pay and benefits for 30,000 new Army soldiers and about \$200 million to build 13 unmanned Predator aircraft.

Officials expect those costs to be included later this year in a supplemental budget request, expected to reach nearly \$80 billion.

Senators called that decision poor bookkeeping, and possibly even an underhand way of limiting Congressional review on what the military is really spending.

"This removes from our oversight responsibilities and the scrutiny these programs deserve," said Sen. John McCain,

R-Ariz., adding that many of the critical items shouldn't be paid for through one-time spending.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the ranking Democrat on the committee, said costs associated with modernizing the Army — a long-term goal of force officials — should not be included in the one-time payout because of their importance to the service's future.

Also at the hearing, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper said he expects funding for the C-130J cargo planes to be reinstated as budget discussions progress.

The move was expected to save more than \$870 million this year, but Jumper told senators defense officials did not account for the cost of penalties for breaking that construction contract.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

# Political battle over carrier pains brother of president

USS Kennedy, based in Florida, may be eliminated

BY LIZ SIDOTT  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's defense blueprint calls for eliminating an aircraft carrier, and that's making life difficult for his brother Jeb, governor of Florida, where the USS John F. Kennedy is based.

Florida has been thrust into a high-stakes, highly political budget fight that also involves Virginia, home of a major Navy port at Norfolk, and its two senators, John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and George Allen, up for re-election in 2006.

While the budget doesn't say which carrier could be scrapped, the Mayport, Fla.-based ship is a likely candidate because it's the Navy's third-oldest carrier and one of only two in the fleet powered by oil. The Kennedy, commissioned in 1968, is scheduled to be retired in 2018.

Underlining the stakes, Jeb Bush came to Washington for a two-day visit this week, arriving one day after the president rolled out his budget. The governor, who has been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in 2008, is to meet with members of his state's congressional delegation and lobby lawmakers on Wednesday to keep the carrier at Mayport Naval Station near Jacksonville.

It's a dance that happens each year in Washington after the president sends his budget proposal to Congress. State officials with a lot to lose descend on Washington to try to get Congress to reject parts of the president's proposal. Members of Congress have their own campaigns to protect pet projects

## U.S. aircraft carrier classes

The Associated Press

The Navy is fond of noting that each of its 12 aircraft carriers is a floating air base — four acres of U.S. territory from which warplanes can operate free of foreign constraints.

Here are some features of the carrier fleet:

- Ten of the 12 are powered by nuclear reactors. The USS Enterprise has eight reactors aboard; the other nine have two each.

The non-nuclear carriers — the USS John F. Kennedy and the USS Kitty Hawk, are powered by oil.

■ The Kitty Hawk is the only carrier based permanently

abroad, at Yokosuka, Japan. The Kennedy is based at Mayport, Fla.; five are based at Norfolk, Va.; two in San Diego; one at Everett, Wash.; and two at Bremerton, Wash.

■ Each carrier can accommodate about 80 aircraft, including fighter jets, reconnaissance planes and electronic warfare planes.

■ Length: about 1,100 feet. Width: about 250 feet.

■ About 5,500 sailors and naval aviators are aboard.

■ Because of the great distances from the continental United States to potential hot spots in Asia, the Navy is considering moving one carrier to a base at either Hawaii or Guam.

for their home states.

Florida and Virginia are home to the two Atlantic ports for the Navy's aircraft carriers, while the Pacific fleet resides at three naval bases off the coasts of California and Washington state. One carrier also is based in Japan.

The Pentagon proposed eliminating a carrier as a way to save money as the country spends billions a month to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Defense officials say the Navy can perform the same functions with 11 carriers.

Warner, a powerful Republican and a former Navy secretary, says that while he has "long supported maintaining 12 carriers," he still has a responsibility to consider the president's proposal in good faith.

So, he is refraining from endorsing legislation by two senators who serve on his committee to require the Navy to keep a fleet of 12 carriers. However, Warner also is pressing the Pentagon for more answers about its plan.

During lunch with Defense Sec-

retary Donald H. Rumsfeld and a few other lawmakers on Monday, Warner expressed his concerns about reducing the fleet. Then late Tuesday, he issued a statement saying he planned to question closely the Navy chief of operations this week on the impact de-commissioning a carrier would have on national security.

The second-ranking Republican on the committee, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, also is choosing his words carefully on the issue, despite his reputation as a maverick. McCain, another potential candidate for president, promised "a careful examination" of the proposal.

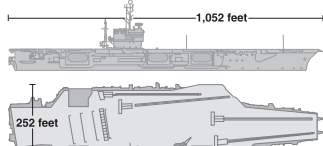
"We ought to look at all options, such as maybe moving one of the carriers out of Norfolk to Jacksonville. Maybe we ought to have the case made as to whether we ought to delay construction of another carrier," he said.

Meanwhile, Allen, also a possible White House candidate in 2008, and Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., the two committee members who are co-sponsoring the bill to

## Budget fight brewing over carrier cut

President Bush's defense budget calls for scrapping one aircraft carrier from its arsenal of 12. The likely candidate is the Navy's third oldest, the oil-powered USS John F. Kennedy.

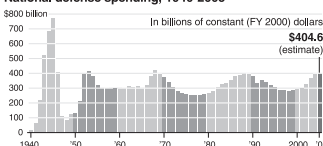
USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67)



- Date deployed: Sept. 7, 1968
- Aircraft: About 85
- Power plant: Steam turbine; 280,000 horsepower
- Port: Mayport, Fla. (34.5 mph)
- Speed: 30+ knots

U.S. carriers: ■ Nuclear ■ Steam turbine ■ Being built

## National defense spending, 1940-2005



SOURCES: Defense Department, GlobalSecurity.org, Office of Management and Budget

freeze the number of carriers at 12, are lobbying the Pentagon directly. They argue that it's not smart to decommission a carrier while the country is at war.

Allen pressed Rumsfeld on the issue on Tuesday. "The conversations will continue," Allen said. "We're going to keep fighting to keep the Kennedy."

Nelson also sent a letter to Adm. Vernon Clark, chief of naval operations, proposing that one of the nuclear-powered aircraft carriers stationed at Norfolk be moved to Florida. He wants the ships to be divided between

two ports on the East Coast.

"You sure don't want all your ships in one port. We learned our lesson in Pearl Harbor," Nelson said.

But that proposal won't fly with the Virginia senators, or with Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner, who criticized the proposal in a letter to John Warner on Tuesday.

Gov. Warner noted that the cost of such a move has been reported at \$200 million.

"I am also concerned, as you are, about the impact of such a move on our Navy families at a time of lengthy deployments," the Democratic governor wrote.



## IN THE WORLD

# N. Korea makes first public claim of nukes

BY BURT HERMAN  
The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea boasted publicly for the first time Thursday that it has nuclear weapons and said it will stay away from disarmament talks, dramatically raising the stakes in the two-year-old nuclear dispute despite softened rhetoric from the United States aimed at luring the communist nation back to the negotiating table.

North Korea's pronouncement posed a grave challenge to President Bush, who started his second term with a vow to end North Korea's nuclear program through six-nation talks.

"We ... have manufactured nukes for self-defense to cope with the Bush administration's ever-more undisguised policy to isolate and stifle the [North]," the North Korean Foreign Ministry said in a statement in English carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Previously, U.S. negotiators said North Korean officials claimed in private talks that they had nuclear weapons and might test one.

The North's U.N. envoy also last year said the country had "weaponized" plutonium from its pool of 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods.

But Thursday's statement was the first claim directly from North Korea's state media that it has a nuclear weapon, confirming the widely held beliefs of international experts that the country already has one or two atomic bombs. North Korea is not known to have performed any nuclear tests and kicked out U.N. inspectors in 2002, so there is no way to verify its claims.

The United States and South Korea, the North's main rivals, downplayed the revelation and urged the North to return to the six-nation disarmament talks that began in 2003 and also include China, Japan and Russia.

Analysts suggested the move may be one of the impoverished state's negotiating tactics aimed at getting more compensation in exchange for giving up its nuclear aspirations.

In a clear overture to North Korea to help foster the nuclear talks, Bush refrained from direct criticism of the country in last week's State of the Union address.

Washington now must rely on its allies with more direct influence over the North — China and South Korea — to entice North Korea to negotiate.



North Korea's spent nuclear fuel rods, kept in a cooling pond, are seen at the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, North Korea, in this 1996 photo. North Korea on Thursday announced publicly for the first time that it has nuclear weapons, and rejected disarmament talks.

North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions."

Bush has previously branded the North part of an "axis of evil" that included Iran and Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Washington now must rely on its allies with more direct influence over the North — China and South Korea — to entice North Korea to negotiate.

"The question now is whether Washington is able to persuade and cajole Seoul and Beijing to bribe and pressure North Korea to resume the six-party talks," said Gary Samore of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. "The U.S. has absolutely no influence, except through other countries."

## World urges Pyongyang back to 6-way talks

The Associated Press

TOKYO — North Korea's statement Thursday that it had nuclear weapons and would boycott talks on its atomic programs was seen as a possible negotiating gambit, and governments urged it to return to the bargaining table.

Japan, one of the six nations that have met three times since 2003 to try to convince North Korea to give up its nuclear arsenal, said it was not immediately alarmed, since the aim was unclear.

North Korea announced for the first time through its state-run media that it has nuclear weapons, and rejected moves to restart disarmament talks, saying it needs to defend against an increasingly hostile United States.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, whose inspectors were kicked out of North Korea in 2002, said the country remained its "single highest priority."

Some blamed the widening of the rift between North Korea and the United States on missteps by both sides.

"Pyongyang's moves and Washington's excessively harsh stance have thwarted attempts to reach a compromise," Konstantin Kosachev, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Russia's lower house of parliament, told the Interfax news agency.

However, Japan also cautioned against overreacting.

"They have used this sort of phrasing every so often," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told reporters. "They didn't say anything particularly new."



A homemade rocket fired by Palestinian militants is seen outside a house Thursday in the southern Gaza Strip.

One blew himself up with a bomb he was apparently trying to plant. The other was shot by soldiers as he approached a settlement.

Also Thursday, armed Palestinian stormed the main Palestinian Authority jail in Gaza and killed three prisoners, part of a clan feud.

Sharon's office called Egyptian, American and Palestinian officials on Thursday to express concern. "We informed them we expect the Palestinians to act immediately against these attacks," said Asaf Shariv, an aide to Sharon.

## Rice warns North to avoid global isolation

The Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday that North Korea should return to disarmament talks and avoid a path toward further international isolation. "The world has given them a way out and we hope they will take that way out," she said.

Rice's comments came after North Korea stated explicitly that it has nuclear weapons and said that it needs them as protection against an increasingly hostile United States.

"The North Koreans have been told by the president of the United States that the United States has no intention of attacking or invading North Korea," Rice said during a news conference here with European Union leaders.

"There is a path for the North Koreans that would put them in a more reasonable relationship with the rest of the world," she said, referring to an international disarmament effort that includes the United States.

Asked to analyze the thinking in Pyongyang, Rice was almost dismissive.

"I'm not sure anyone ever gets very far by trying to second-guess the motivation of the North Korean regime," she said.

## Iran: Attackers would face a 'scorching hell'

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A month after President Bush warned that the United States hasn't ruled out military action against Iran, President Mohammad Khatami responded Thursday that his country would turn the "scorching hell" for any possible attackers.

Khatami's comments, before a crowd of tens of thousands to mark the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, came amid escalating rhetoric between the United States and Iran. Washington accuses Tehran of maintaining a nuclear weapons program, which Iran says is for peaceful purposes.

"Will this nation allow the feet of an aggressor to touch this land?" Khatami asked at the crowd. "If, God forbid, it happens, Iran will turn into a scorching hell for the aggressors." His statements drew chants of "Death to America!" from the crowd.

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## Abbas furious over militants attacking Gaza

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Reacting forcefully Thursday to Hamas rocket and mortar fire in Gaza in defiance of a fresh cease-fire with Israel, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas fired his top security commanders and sent a message to the militants that he will not tolerate further future violations.

Among about 20 senior officers to lose their jobs were the top two commanders, Brig. Gen. Abdel Razek Majadeh, chief of public security, and police chief Saeb al-Ajed, security officials said, a clear sign the Abbas is serious about enforcing the two-day-old truce.

Hamas claimed responsibility for salvos of rockets and mortars — 30 mortars and 26 rockets — one of the bigger barrages in four years of violence — aimed at two settlements in southern Gaza, Neve Dekalim and Gedid. The military said there were no casualties.

Israeli TV stations showed video of minor damage to some houses.

Hamas said the barrage was retaliation for the death of two Palestinians on Wednesday.

See related story  
on Page 12

# Pope leaves hospital after 10-day stay

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II left a Rome hospital in his white popemobile Thursday, 10 days after suffering breathing spasms that left him bedridden and rekindled debate about his ability to continue leading the Roman Catholic Church.

Under heavy security, the 84-year-old pope was bundled into the vehicle inside a covered entrance to the Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic to shield him from the winter chill. Police sealed off St. Peter's Square to tourists, and hundreds of cheering Romans lined the route to the Vatican.

The pontiff waved to the crowds and blessed the faithful standing along the 2½-mile route to the Vatican. His return was broadcast live on television.

The bulletproof popemobile is equipped with a hydraulic lift, which makes it easier for the pon-

## Church clarifies annulment guidelines

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has clarified the guidelines it wants church judges to follow when making decisions on marriage annulments, saying that it wants the practice handled more seriously.

Publication of the compendium of canon law aspects about marriage comes on the heels of the most recent criticism by Pope John Paul II, who complained that annulments are too easily obtained and expressed worry that tribunals face the risk of corruption. For Catholics who want to remarry, annulment is their only hope of being able to do so in the church, which forbids divorce.

Among the reasons church tribunals grant annulments are impotence, refusal by a spouse to have children, and psychological immaturity at the time

of saying "I do."

Critics of the annulment process contend the last reason is frequently interpreted too loosely. They also suggest U.S. diocesan tribunals are too generous in embracing canon law loopholes, pointing to the lopsided statistics: annulments decreed by U.S. dioceses account for roughly two-thirds of all those granted worldwide to faithful.

At John Paul's orders, experts compiled guidelines contained in revised canon law and interpretations of the last two decades by Church courts but added no new rules. The instructions issued Tuesday, "Dignitas Connubii," is based on the 1983 Code of Canon Law.

— The Associated Press

tiff, who walks with difficulty, to get into than a limousine.

Papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls said at midday Thursday that the frail pope had recovered completely from the breath-

ing crisis that led to his urgent hospitalization Feb. 1, and his general condition continued to improve.

Navarro-Valls said a battery of tests, including a CT scan, had

ruled out any new illnesses.

The pope, who also suffers from Parkinson's disease and crippling hip and knee ailments, was rushed by ambulance to Gemelli two days after coming down

with the flu. A Vatican official said the situation was "serious, very serious" when he first arrived at the hospital.

The pope's return to his apartment in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace coincided with the start of a traditional Lenten period of spiritual reflection for the pontiff, during which he has no public ceremonies. The break will give the pope a chance to regain his strength before Easter services without having to cancel any thing.

"When he gets back to the Vatican he will look over and decide with his doctors what his appointments will be," Navarro-Valls said.

John Paul also planned to send a thank-you note to the doctors and nurses who attended him, the spokesman said.

John Paul's hospitalization forced him to skip the Ash Wednesday ritual for the first time in his 26-year papacy.

## Saudi election

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Male voters converged at polling stations in the Riyadh region on Thursday to participate in city elections, the first time Saudis are taking part in a vote that largely conforms to international standards. Women were banned from running or voting.

Prince Mansour bin Miteb, head of the election commission, said there were no reports of irregularities and that voter turnout was "very reasonable" shortly before polls closed on Thursday.

## IKEA opening stampede

LONDON — A man was stabbed and five other people were taken to hospital after thousands of customers caused a stampede at the midnight opening of a new IKEA furniture store in north London, British authorities said Thursday.

Some 6,000 people flocked to the Swedish furniture store, which had been offering special bargains including leather sofas for \$84.

## Transportation strike

ROME — Travelers in Italy faced disruptions from strikes Thursday, with Italian carrier Alitalia scrapping about 140 flights and the national rail network warning of cancellations through Friday.

The four-hour walkout by Alitalia workers started at 12:30 p.m. In a separate protest, railway workers were scheduled to walk off their jobs for 24 hours starting at 9 p.m. (2000GMT) Thursday.

## Annan on U.N. role

LONDON — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan insisted Thursday the international body had an important role to play in world affairs, but needed improvement.

"You see the world does need a forum for collective decision-making and it needs an instrument of collective action," said Annan, addressing a London seminar on U.N. reform.

From The Associated Press

# Seabed images show tsunami damage

## U.S. donation pledge soars to \$950 million

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The first images of the seabed that was rocked by the earthquake that triggered Asia's catastrophic tsunami revealed huge ruptures spanning several miles along the Indian Ocean's floor.

The United States, meanwhile, said it was preparing to more than double its pledge for tsunami relief to \$950 million.

The images of the seabed were from a British naval ship collecting data off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island that could be used to help governments develop a tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean region.

"There are features which we would think are something like the Grand Canyon would look," Tim Henstock, a scientist aboard the HMS Scott, told BBC News. The images show "slide scars" more than six miles wide resulting from the 9.0 magnitude quake on Dec. 26, the world's biggest in 40 years.

President Bush said he would



Commander Steve Malcolm of the HMS Scott displays a 3-dimensional model of the Indian Ocean seabed on Wednesday at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. Digital images taken by the British military ship show the rumpled seabed at the epicenter of the quake that caused the South Asia tsunami.

ask Congress for \$950 million — up from \$350 committed for tsunami relief so far — a pledge that would put the United States atop the list of donors to the disaster.

Australia has promised \$810 million, followed by Germany's

\$660 million, the European Commission's \$624 million and Japan's \$540 million.

Meanwhile, the gruesome task of retrieving the dead in Indonesia is unlikely to be finished by June as earlier expected as corps-

es continue to be found in the rubble, said Yrsa Grune from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Volunteers have been helping a government-led effort to collect and bury victims in Aceh.

# Britain's Prince Charles announces plans to wed

The Associated Press

LONDON — Prince Charles announced Thursday that he will marry his lover, Camilla Parker Bowles, putting an official seal on a romance kindled three decades ago, which Princess Diana blamed for the breakdown of her tempestuous marriage to the heir to the throne. The announcement ruled out the possibility that Parker Bowles would become queen.

The Prince of Wales and Parker Bowles will marry April 8 at Windsor Castle, said Clarence

House, Charles' residence and office.

They will be married in a largely private civil ceremony at the palace, not in a Church of England service.

Prince William, 22, and Prince Harry, 20, the sons of Prince



Charles



Bowles

that Parker Bowles' former husband is still living. In general, the

Church of England, the legally established faith of the nation, disapproves of remarriage of divorced people in church.

When Charles accedes to the throne, his wife will instead be known as the HRH (Her Royal Highness) Princess Consort. Charles' decision appeared to be a not a public opinion, which has never warmed to Camilla.

Charles, 56, divorced from Diana in 1996, a year before she was killed in a Paris car crash. Camilla, 57, obtained her divorce from army officer Andrew Parker Bowles in 1995.

# Italians remember those massacred by Yugoslavs

The Associated Press

ROME — With a new "day of memory," Italy on Thursday remembered a long-neglected chapter of its history: the massacre of thousands of Italians who were dragged from their homes, tortured, shot and dumped into mountain crevasses

— sometimes still alive — by Yugoslav partisans 60 years ago.

Parliament observed a minute of silence, while Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini and other top officials attended a military ceremony in the north-eastern city of Trieste, where many of the crimes were carried out.

"If we look back at the 20th century, we see pages of history that we wish we could forget," Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Wednesday in a statement. "But we cannot forget, and we do not want to forget."

Thousands of Italians were tortured and killed in Trieste, Gorizia and on the Istrian peninsula between 1943 and 1945 by Yugoslav partisans on anti-fascist rampages.

es. The exact number is unclear, but some estimates put the figure at around 10,000.

Trieste and the Istrian peninsula came under Italian control after World War I and were brutally "Italianized" under Benito Mussolini's Fascists.

Memories of that time prompted the revenge killings as World War II wound down. Many victims were dumped into yawning mountain crevasses known in local dialect as "foibe," the name by which the atrocities are commonly referred.

In highly politicized Italy, the Communists have long tried to bury the matter as an embarrassment, while the right — which now governs the country — has tried to bring it to attention. In March, parliament approved a law to institute the national day of memory.

"Today we are called to live a moment of reconciliation and unity," Chamber of Deputies President Pier Ferdinando Casini said in parliament, drawing applause.

*Thousands of  
Italians were  
tortured and  
killed in Trieste,  
Gorizia and on  
the Istrian  
peninsula  
between 1943  
and 1945 by  
Yugoslav  
partisans.*



Protesters held a rally Thursday at a proposed site for the U.S. consulate in Karachi, Pakistan. Protesters say their area could become a target for terrorists. U.S. officials have been looking for a more secure location for the consulate since a June 2002 suicide attack outside the current consulate that 12 Pakistanis dead and dozens of injured.

## U.S. Consulate site opposed

Some Pakistanis fear U.S. presence will draw terrorists

The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — About 100 Pakistanis on Thursday protested plans to relocate the U.S. Consulate in the volatile southern city of Karachi to their residential area, saying it could become a target for terrorists.

Most of the demonstrators were parents of students at the nearby Karachi Grammar School — one of a half dozen upscale schools in the vicinity. One of their banners read, "No U.S. Consulate in our neighborhood."

U.S. officials have been looking for a more secure location for the consulate since a June 2002 suicide attack outside the current consulate which was blamed on Islamic militants and left 12 Pakistanis dead and dozens of others injured.

A year later, a lone attacker fatally shot two police-

men guarding the consulate, and in March 2004 authorities foiled another attack, defusing a huge bomb minutes before it was timed to explode by the perimeter wall.

The current consulate is in a business and administrative area about 2½ miles from the proposed site in the heart of Karachi's exclusive Clifton district. The new site is open land divided into two adjacent plots, used as an ad hoc sports field and sometimes for concerts.

Amber Alibhai, a protester, contended that the site was designated by the provincial government as land for public use — such as parks, mosques or schools — and to locate a diplomatic mission there would break the law.

Other protesters said the consulate would be a potential terrorist target and should not be built in a residential area.

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## IN THE STATES

## 9/11 panel: FAA had many terror warnings

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration received repeated warnings in the months prior to Sept. 11, 2001, about al-Qaida and its desire to attack airlines, according to a previously undisclosed report by the commission that investigated the terror attacks.

The report by the Sept. 11 commission that investigated the suicide airliner attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon detailed 52 such warnings given to FAA leaders from April to Sept. 10, 2001, about the radical Islamic terrorist group and its leader, Osama bin Laden.

The commission report, written last August, said five security

## Agency says it had 'no specific information'

warnings mentioned al-Qaida's training for hijackings and two reports concerned suicide operations not connected to aviation.

However, none of the warnings pinpointed what would happen on Sept. 11.

FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said the agency received intelligence from other agencies, which it passed on to airlines and airports.

But, she said, "We had no specific information about means or methods that would have enabled us to tailor any countermeasures."

Brown also said the FAA was in

the process of tightening security at the time of the attacks.

"We were spending \$100 million a year to deploy explosive detection equipment at the airports," she said. The agency was also close to issuing a regulation that would have set higher standards for screeners and, for the first time, give it direct control over the screening work force.

Al Felzenberg, former spokesman for the Sept. 11 commission, which went out of business last summer, said the government had not completed a review of the 120-page report for declassification purposes until recently.

The unclassified version, first reported by The New York Times, was made available by the National Archives Thursday.

According to the report:

■ Aviation officials "were 'told into a false sense of security' and 'intelligence that indicated a real and growing threat leading up to Sept. 11 did not stimulate significant increases in security procedures.'"

■ Of the FAA's 105 daily intelligence summaries between April 1, 2001 and Sept. 20, 2001, 52 mentioned Osama bin Laden, al Qaida, or both, "mostly in regard to overseas threats."

■ It notes that the FAA did not

expand the use of in-flight air marshals or tighten airport screening for weapons. It said FAA officials were more concerned with reducing airline congestion, lessening delays and easing air carriers' financial problems than thwarting a terrorist attack.

■ A proposed rule to improve passenger screening and other security measures ordered by Congress in 1996 had been held up by the Office of Management and Budget and was still not in effect when the attacks occurred, according to the FAA.

■ Information in this report was available to members of the Sept. 11 commission when they issued their public report last summer. That report itself contained criticisms of FAA operations.



A SWAT team leaves a staging area Wednesday in Lake County, Fla., as officers searched the Ocala National Forest for Jason Lee Wheeler, who is accused of fatally shooting a deputy and wounding two others.

## Police arrest suspect in deputies' shooting

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER  
The Associated Press

PAISLEY, Fla. — When Sara Heckerman called authorities and said her boyfriend had "almost killed" her, she warned them there might be trouble when officers arrived.

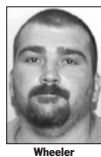
"My old man has lost it, and he

has promised me that if a cop pulls into that driveway, there's going to be a gun battle," Heckerman said in her call.

"He's a big boy, so you might want to bring more than one."

Police say Jason Lee Wheeler, 29, ambushed officers' responses to Heckerman's complaint, gunning down one sheriff's deputy and wounding two others outside the couple's home.

He was captured Wednesday



Wheeler

in the Ocala National Forest after a daylong search by hundreds of law enforcement officers.

Wheeler was wounded in a gunfight with officers, who captured him in piney woods six miles from his home in rural Lake County, about 30 miles north of Orlando, officers said.

"We were able to flush him out of the woods," Sheriff Chris Daniels said.

Wheeler had escaped the couple's home on a motorcycle, which was later found ditched, said Nick Pallitto, a spokesman for the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Wayne Koester, 33, died after being taken to a hospital, Pallitto said. Deputies Tom McKane and Bill Crotty were treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Daniels said he did not know the nature of Wheeler's wounds, but the ex-convict was at an Orlando hospital in critical condition.

According to state records, Wheeler has been arrested four times in Florida, mostly for drug crimes, and has served two six-month jail sentences.

## Defense civilians to get paid based on their performance

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's new personnel rules will create a civil service system that for decades have meant steady pay increases for civilian workers and several layers of protection against arbitrary firings or discipline, according to a Pentagon briefing for Congress on Wednesday.

Under the National Security Personnel System, pay raises, now driven largely by longevity, instead will be tied to annual performance evaluations that take into account an employee's conduct and professional demeanor.

The new system would toss out the 15-grade General Schedule pay system and replace it with one of "pay bands," offering fewer, larger salary ranges tied to jobs more broadly grouped by occupation and employee skill level, according to a 12-page summary given to House and Senate staffers.

The document indicates that the Pentagon's new personnel system will be similar to new rules an-

nounced for the Department of Homeland Security last month. The Defense plan, to be phased in over four years, will affect about 750,000 workers, compared with 110,000 at DHS.

The Pentagon says managers will be able to hire workers faster through a streamlined process, although veterans will still have an edge over other applicants. The system also changes the rules for layoffs to emphasize job performance rather than seniority in determining who stays and who doesn't.

Workers rated as "outstanding" will get larger pay increases than others, and unacceptable performers will receive no raises, the summary says. A raise or promotion — moving up in a pay band or rising to the next one — will depend on receiving a successful performance rating from a supervisor.

Congress paved the way for the new system in 2003 when it gave the Pentagon the authority to rewrite the personnel rules. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had argued that the current system was outdated, rewarded poor performers as well as strong ones and gave little political influence in the department's ability to fight global terrorism.

## U.S.: Iran war plans are routine

BY ANN SCOTT TYSON  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is updating its war plan for Iran, a senior officer said Wednesday, but he called the planning routine and said pressure on Tehran to curb a nuclear weapons program remains a diplomatic rather than military effort.

"We are in that process, that normal process, of updating our war plans," said Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, which is responsible for U.S. forces across the Mideast, Central Asia and parts of North Africa. "We try to keep them current, particularly if ... our region is active," he said in response to reporters' questions at a Pentagon news conference.

Smith indicated the Iran contingency planning grew out of a broad, long-range effort to fresh-

en routine plans for countries in the region, and was not the product of a specific or urgent request.

"I haven't been called into any late-night meetings at, you know, 8 o'clock at night, saying, 'Holy cow, we got to sit down and go plan for Iran,'" he said. "I'm not spending any of my time worrying about the nuclear proliferation in Iran," he said, adding that at this stage diplomatic efforts by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are "adequate for our needs."

Smith's comments came after a week in which the Bush administration has repeatedly warned Iran to give up what the U.S. contends is an effort to gain nuclear weapons.

At the White House, President Bush emphasized that America and Europe would "speak with one voice" in pressuring Iran.

"The Iranians just need to know that the free world is working together to send a very clear message — don't develop a nuclear weapon," he said during an appearance Wednesday in the Oval Office with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski. Bush said he was "pleased" with the responses European leaders had given Rice during discussions on Iran.

Day to day, Smith said, the U.S. military is focused less on the long-range threat of a nuclear Iran than on Tehran's immediate efforts to gain political influence in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the cross-border flow of fighters from Iran that feed Iraq's insurgency.

Iran backed certain Iraqi candidates for the new National Assembly to try to gain sway over a future Iraqi government, he said. Tehran is also lending some support for the radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in Iraq, he said.



## Attack saves life

NAPLES, Fla. — A blow to the head with a beer bottle may have saved Sally Hampton's life.

While doctors were examining her after the barroom attack, they discovered a brain tumor that could have killed her.

The tumor was removed, and Hampton, 64, is fully recovered.

Hampton was attacked July 4 at a bar in Immokalee, a farming town in southwestern Florida. According to prosecutors, she put her hand on Fidel Trujillo's shoulder to lead him out of the place when the bartender wanted to close up. Trujillo bashed her with a bottle and kicked her in the head and body when she fell.

## Amnesia hides identity

BOSTON — An amnesia victim who says his nickname is "Tee" but knows nothing else about his identity has uncovered few clues in the mystery a month after he was found slumped on a street corner in the city's Mattapan section on Jan. 12 and brought to a hospital for treatment of his head injury.

"The last thing I remember is being thrown out of a car by three people. I woke up on the street and there was a lady next to me," the man told the Boston Herald in a voice tinged with an accent suggesting a childhood in the Caribbean.

"I just want to have my memory back. I hope someone is looking for me," he said.

## Pilot accused of threat

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A United Airlines pilot who also flew for the National Guard told a woman that he wanted to crash a plane into Wall Street because some people made "easy money" there, court documents allege.

Robert Fenezi, 44, of San Diego, was arrested Wednesday by FBI agents with the Joint Terrorism Task Force of Western New York and charged with lying on a military application for a security clearance. He pleaded not guilty and was released on \$10,000 bail.

On an October application for top security clearance, Fenezi said he had not been arrested or involved in civil court actions in the last seven years, Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Lynch said.

Officials later found he was arrested on two misdemeanor charges in San Diego, charges that were later dropped, and was involved in a civil court matter in 2000.

## Ex-priest faces trial

BALTIMORE — Donte Stokes' link to the Rev. Maurice Blackwell began early. It was Blackwell who baptized him as a baby and later made him an altar boy.

But Stokes says his relationship with Blackwell changed in the 1980s as years of sexual abuse culminated with rape when he was 17, prompting him to stop Blackwell's 2002 with a .357 Magnum handgun.

Now Blackwell faces trial after being charged with four counts of sexual abusing Stokes between 1989 and 1992. Jury selection was scheduled to begin Thursday.

From the Associated Press

# Mosque aided alleged terror fronts

## Founder Hakeem Olajuwon says he was unaware of ties

By MATT KELLEY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Basketball star Hakeem Olajuwon says his mosque's donations to groups the government later determined to be terrorist fronts were meant to help the poor, not sponsor terrorism.

A Houston mosque that Olajuwon established and supported gave more than \$80,000 to groups the government has labeled fronts for al-Qaida and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Olajuwon told the AP he would not have given money to the groups had he known of the alleged terrorist ties — some of which had been the subject of news reports before the contributions were made.

Olajuwon's mosque gave the money before the United States designated the groups as terrorist fronts.

"There is no way you can go back in time," Olajuwon said in a recent telephone interview from Jordan, where he is studying Arabic. "After the fact, now they have the list of organizations that are banned by the government."



Hakeem Olajuwon

A Treasury Department spokeswoman, Molly Millerwise, declined to discuss Olajuwon's contributions. She said that "in many cases, donors are being unwittingly misled by the charities."

Federal law enforcement officials said they were not investigating Olajuwon, a 7-foot center born in Nigeria who played 17 seasons for the Houston Rockets of the National Basketball Association before retiring in 2002.

Olajuwon, 42, who became a U.S. citizen in 1993, was known as "The Dream." He won the NBA's

Most Valuable Player award in 1994, when he led the Rockets to the first of back-to-back championships.

The Olajuwon-founded Islamic Da'Wah Center in Houston gave more than \$60,000 in 2000 and \$20,000 in 2002 to the Islamic African Relief Agency, the center's tax records show. The mosque gave more than \$1 million in donations during 2000 and about \$291,000 in 2002, the records show.

The government shut down the relief agency in October, saying it gave money and other support to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

If the donations came before the government designated the Holy Land Foundation and the Islamic African Relief Agency as terrorist fronts, Vipul Woraah, an accountant for Olajuwon's charities, said U.S. authorities have never asked about the contributions.

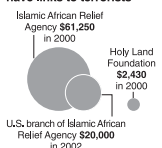
Olajuwon, who is married with four daughters, became a Muslim during his professional career and was known for playing in key games while observing dawn-to-dusk fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Associated Press writer Pam Easton in Houston contributed to this report.

## Contributions in question

Tax records show that a Houston mosque founded and funded by basketball star Hakeem Olajuwon gave more than \$80,000 to charities that the U.S. government later determined to be fronts for terrorist organizations. Olajuwon says he did not know of any links to terrorism when the donations were made.

**Islamic Da'Wah Center contributions to charities the U.S. government says have links to terrorists**



SOURCES: Tax returns for Islamic Da'Wah Center, Treasury Department

# Details on Bush's Social Security plan

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is traveling the country, pushing his plan to add personal accounts to Social Security. But how would those accounts really work? To some extent, much like the 401(k) investments that many workers have. But Bush leaves out many details, including important questions about how far benefits would have to be cut to secure the program's long-term finances.

More comprehensive plans developed by members of Congress and by a commission Bush appointed give more details, offering a vision as to what a full program might look like.

Some questions and answers:

**Q: Who is eligible to open the accounts?**

A: Under the Bush plan, anyone under age 55 would be eligible.

Those age 55 and up would stay in the exist-

ing program and get benefits promised under current law.

**Q: Will the accounts solve Social Security's financial problems?**

A: No. The personal accounts do almost nothing to solve the basic Social Security facts: It will soon be paying more in annual benefits than it collects annually in payroll taxes. Benefit cuts or tax increases will be needed to make the system solvent long-term.

**Q: Who would be affected by benefit cuts?**

A: All those under 55 — whether or not they take personal accounts. Supporters hope that profits from the private accounts will partly make up the difference.

**Q: How would the accounts work, and how would they differ from today's system?**

A: Social Security today is a pay-as-you-go system, where workers and their employers each pay 6.2 percent of an employee's wages

(up to \$90,000 a year) into the Social Security trust fund.

The taxes pay for benefits to current retirees. Future retirees' benefits are expected to be paid for via taxes collected today.

Under the Bush plan, workers could divert two-thirds of their Social Security taxes into private accounts that could be invested in stocks and bonds to help fund their own retirement.

Contributions would initially be capped at \$1,000 per year but the cap would rise by \$100 a year. The rest of Social Security taxes would continue to pay for traditional benefit checks. When it came time to retire, one's retirement income would come from a combination of the new personal accounts and traditional Social Security benefits.

Workers also could forgo the private accounts and keep all their taxes in the traditional system, and therefore their government check would be larger.

# FleetCenter auctions off single-day naming rights

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The owner of FleetCenter is offering gamoniacs a shot at fleet fame: a chance to buy personal naming rights to the sports arena for just a single day.

The rotating, day-to-day opportunity is being offered through an eBay auction while the arena's owners continue seeking a long-term naming rights deal to replace the FleetCenter name, now rendered obsolete by Bank of America's \$48 billion acquisition last year of the former FleetBoston Financial Corp.

Bidding in the online auction started at \$25, with proceeds

from the 24-hour naming rights deals to go to a charity supported by the arena's owner, Delaware North Cos. Bidding began Thursday at 6:15 a.m. and had already reached \$150 by 8 a.m.

Single-day names for the home of the NBA's Boston Celtics and the NHL's Boston Bruins could carry the names of the bidder, a loved one, or a business.

As an example, Richard Krezwick, president and chief executive of Delaware North, offered his own suggestion: The Rolling Krezwick Center, in honor of the executive's dog, a wheaten terrier.

"He's a big sports fan,"

Krezwick said. "He watches hockey religiously."

Bidders will not be required to include "Center" in the building name, and the arena will approve all names provided they're "rated G," Krezwick said.

Winning bidders won't get to change the arena's large exterior signs, but will be able to see their chosen names on the FleetCenter's Web site, its Jumbotron video screen, and a message for callers to the automated phone system, which will say "Thank you for calling the YourCenter."

They also will get four luxury seat tickets to the day's game or show, a framed photo collage and

a certificate, and a "special surprise gift package."

Aspiring bidders also can submit offers by logging onto the FleetCenter's Web site, [www.fleetcenter.com](http://www.fleetcenter.com).

FleetCenter executives have been negotiating with a handful of sponsors to buy single-day deals before the 24-hour naming rights go to eBay bidders starting Feb. 16. Local Fox television station WXPX and a Chicago-based sports marketing publicists agency are among the initial potential sponsors.

Marketing specialists have estimated the value of FleetCenter's naming rights at more than \$4 million a year, or nearly \$11,000 per day.

# Study: Broken hearts really can be fatal

## Sudden, dangerous cardiac spasm linked to flood of stress hormones

By ROB STEIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As Valentine's Day approaches, scientists have confirmed the lament of countless love sonnets and romance novels: People really can die of a broken heart, and the researchers now think they know why.

A traumatic breakup, the death of loved one, or even the shock of a surprise party can unleash a flood of stress hormones that can stun the heart, causing sudden, life-threatening heart spasm in otherwise healthy people, they reported Wednesday.

The phenomenon can trigger what seems like a classic heart attack and can put victims at risk for potentially severe complications and even death, the researchers found. With proper care, however, doctors can mend the physical aspect of a "broken heart" and avoid long-term damage.

"When you think about people who have died of a 'broken heart,' there are probably several ways that can happen," said Hans Litwistein of the Johns Hopkins

School of Medicine in Baltimore, whose findings appear in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. "A broken heart can kill you, and this may be one way."

No one knows how often it happens, but the researchers suspect it's more frequent than most doctors realize — primarily among older women — and is usually mistaken for a traditional heart attack.

Researchers have known that stress could trigger heart attacks in people already prone to them, and a syndrome resembling a heart attack in otherwise healthy people following acute emotional stress has been reported in Japan.

But very little was known about the phenomenon in this country, and no one had any idea how it happens.

The new insight is perhaps the most striking example of the link between mind and body, several experts said.

The findings also underscore the growing realization that there are fundamental physiological differences between men and women, including how they respond to stress.

## A broken heart is not just folklore

A new study examined 19 patients who suffered cardiac problems following sudden emotional stress. The study offers a possible explanation.

1. Grief or fear is experienced ...
2. ... stimulating the adrenal glands and nerves to produce stress hormone including adrenaline ...
3. ... which can sharply lower the heart's pumping ability
4. The reduced pumping causes chest pain and other symptoms similar to a heart attack

SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine

"This is why we need to do more research involving women," said cardiologist Deborah Barbour, speaking on behalf of the American Heart Association. "We can't extrapolate a man's response to a woman."

It remains unclear why women would be more vulnerable, but it may have something to do with hormones or how their brains are wired to their hearts.

Accurately diagnosing the phenomenon, known technically as stress cardiomyopathy, should help improve treatment for patients who might otherwise re-

ceive drugs or other therapies that could do more harm than good, Sharkey and others said.

Litwistein and his colleagues studied 19 patients who had what looked like a traditional heart attack between 1999 and 2003 after experiencing sudden emotional stress, including news of a death, shock from a surprise party, being present during an armed robbery, and being involved in a car accident. All but one were women. Most were in their 60s and 70s, though one was just 27. None had a history of heart problems.

When the researchers compared them to people who had classic heart attacks, they found they had healthy, unclogged arteries but that levels of stress hormones in their blood, such as adrenaline, were two to three times higher than in the heart attack victims and seven to 34 times higher than normal.

While classic heart attack victims often experience long-lasting damage and take weeks or months to recover, these patients showed dramatic improvement within a few days and complete recovery with no lingering damage within two weeks.

# Scientists: Moms-to-be should be screened for toxoplasmosis

By CARLA K. JOHNSON

The Associated Press

CHICAGO, Ill. — Janet Morel doesn't know whether it was the undercooked eggs she ate while pregnant or parasites from the pet cat that caused her daughter Dana's blindness and brain damage.

Morel and her husband face a lifetime of caring for Dana, who is now 17. Doctors blame Dana's problems on toxoplasmosis, which is why Morel supports a call for routine testing of pregnant women and infants for the parasitic infection.

"If you could see my daughter, you would understand why it is I feel so strongly about this," said Morel, of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Morel, a pregnant woman or infants are routinely tested for toxoplasmosis, which can cause blindness and brain damage in babies. The infection can be contracted during pregnancy if a woman cleans a cat litter box, gardens or eats raw eggs or meat.

The infection is caused by the parasite Toxoplasma gondii, which can infect all animals and can be found in the ground. Cats spread the parasite in their feces.

A group of doctors who treat children born with the infection are calling for routine screening of pregnant women and infants.

It is not clear how big a risk toxoplasmosis is. Some studies suggest about 1 out of 1,000 babies is born with it, but in Massachusetts, which has routinely tested newborns for it for almost 20 years, only about 1 in 15,000 has turned up with toxoplasmosis.

New Hampshire is the only other state that tests all babies for the infection.

"What it takes is a little push to get this going,"

said Dr. Kenneth Boyer, pediatrics chairman at Rush University Medical Center, who led a study on the infection's risk factors with Dr. Rima McLeod of University of Chicago's Toxoplasmosis Center. "I believe our paper ought to be a push in that direction."

The research, published in the February issue of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, found that even if doctors ask all the right questions to find known risk factors, they miss about half the women who give birth to babies with toxoplasmosis.

Some infected babies are born with no obvious symptoms and diseases become apparent later. Daily treatment during an infected baby's first year of life can prevent some serious symptoms, Boyer said, but even that is not 100 percent effective.

Another problem with universal screening is that the test isn't always accurate and can worry parents needlessly by turning up positive when there is no infection.

Universal testing also adds to health care costs, said Roger B. Eaton, director of the New England Newborn Screening Program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

But Eaton considers the testing cost-effective. In Massachusetts, it's one of several newborn screening tests that together cost \$55.

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology does not recommend routine prenatal testing for toxoplasmosis.

Standard advice for pregnant women includes a warning not to clean cat litter boxes. Pregnant women also should wear gloves while gardening and avoid eating raw or undercooked food. Shellfish and untreated water are new suspected culprits, according to the study.

## NSA guidelines jokingly imply e-mail exchanges with icon Humerdinck

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Is Engelbert Humperdinck, the pop-singer icon once described in his liner notes as "kind of like James Bond, only with more chest hair," quietly exchanging e-mails with the super-secret National Security Agency? America's largest and most cryptic espionage organization indicated as much when it published new software security guidelines for federal agencies. An illustration of a NSA employee's e-mail inbox showed two messages that Humperdinck ostensibly forwarded in July to the spy agency.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

Is Capt. James T. Kirk Investigating Threats for the National Security Agency?

What could the government's top code-breakers be discussing over the Internet with Humperdinck, 68, whose velvety voice scored hits in the 1960s and '70s with "Release Me" and "After the Lovin'" and led hysterical female fans to throw undergarments on stage? The NSA said it was only kidding.

"Instead of using fictitious names as we try to do, this time a celebrity's name was used," the agency said in response to tongue-in-cheek inquiries from The Associated Press. "There was no harm intended. We've removed the name from the page and will substitute it."

The NSA pulled the security guidelines off its Web site, although the document still was circulating on other Web sites.

Humperdinck did not respond for more than two weeks to phone calls and e-mail messages from the AP to his personal assistant, his manager or official fan club.

There were hints even in the NSA's security document that it wasn't really serious about exchanging e-mails with Humperdinck. It misspelled his name "Humpkin," and another illustration showed the spy agency received an e-mailed document from "James T. Kirk," the fictional captain from the "Star Trek" TV series and movies.

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Tel: 0631 351 900

#### HEIDELBERG

Hebelstrasse 3  
69115 Heidelberg  
Tel: 06221 144 911

#### MANNHEIM

Waldeckweg 3  
68309 Mannheim  
Tel: 0621 724 6901

#### WIESBADEN / MAINZ

Ludwig-Walker-Str. 14  
55252 Mainz-Kastel  
Tel: 06134 567 800

### ...ITALY

#### AVIANO

Via Pordenone 48D  
Aviano (PN) 33081  
Tel: 0434 676 613/4

#### VICENZA

Viale Della Pace 254B  
Vicenza (VI) 36100  
Tel: 0444 305 888

#### NAPLES

Via Eduardo Scarfoglio, 7/f  
80125 Naples  
Tel: 081 762 3868

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## Justice sentenced

**OH** BOWLING GREEN — State Supreme Court Justice Alice Robie Resnick stood on the opposite side of the bench, pleading guilty to driving drunk on her way to Columbus Jan. 31.

In a municipal courtroom filled with media from across the state, Resnick, 65, was found guilty of drunken driving and driving outside marked lanes by Judge Mark Reddin.

He sentenced her to three days in jail or in an alcohol treatment program. Reddin also ordered her to pay a \$500 fine for the DUI and a \$100 fine for the marked-lane violation. He suspended her driver's license for six months and placed her on probation for two years.

## Massive tree damaged

**CA** LODGEPOLE — Before a recent series of unfortunate events, the Washington Tree was one of the largest trees on Earth. The giant sequoia in Sequoia National Park was more than 254 feet high, with a base circumference exceeding 101 feet.

That put it right behind the Gen. Sherman Tree, which was almost 275 feet high and more than 102 feet in circumference, and the Gen. Grant Tree, which stood more than 268 feet with a circumference exceeding 107 feet.

But the Washington Tree lost its crown, or top canopy, in a wildfire 16 months ago. Then, heavy storms whittled the tree down further this winter, finally leaving it a sparsely foliated fang of wood only 115 feet high.

It's still too early to tell whether the most recent damage has sealed the tree's fate, said Alexandra Picavet, a ranger with the park.

"There's still a little foliage on it," she said. "Our scientists can't really make a full evaluation of its condition, because it's about a mile from the nearest road, and there's so much snow on the ground. We'll have a better sense of how it's doing when the snow melts."

## Psychedelic chocolate

**TX** AMARILLO — Authorities doubt Cupid had any part in the 9 pounds of heart-shaped candies discovered during a traffic stop.

The candies, found Monday by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers, tested positive for psilocybin, a psychedelic drug extracted from a mushroom of the same name.

The estimated value of the faux Valentine's Day chocolate was more than \$408,000, DPS officials said in a news release.

The troopers found the candy in a plastic bag after stopping a San Francisco man's 2005 Toyota Corolla on Interstate 40 about three miles west of Amarillo.

Craig Allen Moreland, 30, was arrested and taken to the Potter County Detention Center on drug charges, the release said.

Information from the Amarillo Globe-News, <http://www.amarillo.com>

## Firefighters disciplined

**FL** TAMPA — Five firefighters were being disciplined for being involved in a photo shoot in-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

volving two women posing nude on a fire engine inside a station.

Fire Capt. Al Suarez, 44, was fired after being accused of organizing the photo shoot and trying to cover it up by asking witnesses to lie or not cooperate. Four other firefighters were suspended without pay.

The women began the photo shoot partially clothed, but they were soon wearing only high heels. Firefighters taped garbage bags over the windows, the investigation found.

Snaps of the two women, who were strippers at a Tampa nude club, have appeared on Internet Web sites. After a six-week investigation, the five accused men allegedly confessed.

Fire Chief Dennis Jones said he was "embarrassed" by the incident. "I was shocked. I was appalled," he said. "I hope people won't judge the entire department by these four or five individuals."

## Senator hitches a ride

**NE** OMAHA — Sen. Ben Nelson had to hitch a ride with a stranger to his own news conference after accompanying President Bush on a last-minute ride to the airport.

The Democratic senator said he did not know his own staff had sent a car for him on Friday to Eppley Airfield, where he accompanied Bush in the presidential limo.

So Nelson accepted a ride with White House staffers back to the



**Ice claims vehicle**  
Diver Mike Nalen breaks up the ice around a hole made by a fisherman's vehicle, which broke through the ice and sank to the bottom of Lake Nubanusit in Hancock, N.H. The tracks from the vehicle's path can be seen in the background.

Qwest Center, where Bush had spoken about Social Security. From there, he was stranded and late for his news conference to offer reaction to Bush's plan. Nelson said he could not reach his own staffers, who were waiting for him 50 blocks away.

Dick Preston saw Nelson outside the complex, where he was going to the annual home and garden show.

"It was obvious he needed a ride," Preston said. "I told him I had this old Buick and it was ready to go."

## Speed limit dropping

**TN** CHATTANOOGA — Transportation Commissioner Jerry Nicely said the state will reduce interstate speed limits within Hamilton County to 55 mph for trucks and 65 mph for cars, effective this summer. The move is aimed at reducing air pollution in the Chattanooga urban area. Similar requests are pending from Memphis, Nashville and Knoxville.

## Hospital to be built

**OK** TULSA — Construction will begin in September on a 104-bed, five-story children's hospital. The \$56 million hospital is to be completed in spring 2007. It will include space for medical and surgical procedures and pediatric intensive care services. The pediatric rooms will be larger and have space for families to stay overnight, with access to showers, coffee makers, refrigerators and microwaves.

## False mudslide warning

**WA** ORTING — Some schools evacuated and students headed for high ground when sirens went off warning of mudslides down the Puyallup River valley off Mount Rainier. It was a false alarm of the labor warning system. Pierce County emergency officials are trying to determine what triggered the alarm.

## No snow, no race

**NH** LACONIA — This weekend's World Championship Sled Dog Derby has been canceled for lack of snow — notwithstanding the storm in the forecast.

The Lakes Region Sled Dog Club said Tuesday the 66th derby, scheduled for Friday through Sunday, was canceled because of a long stretch of balmy temperatures and a lack of snow.

Club officials Jim Lyman and Russ Armstrong said a snowstorm forecast for Thursday into Friday would come too late to shape an acceptable course.

"We have world-class drivers here and we have to put out a world-class trail," said Lyman, who said canceling the race gives competitors time to enter other races in the Northeast that might have better conditions.

Lyman said unseasonably warm weather has led to the cancellation of races this winter even in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The city's Winterfest event on Saturday will be held regardless, said Deb Oettinger, executive director of Laconia Main Street.

Events include a wood-carving exhibition, a yellow-snow eating contest and frozen turkey bowling.



## Brother, the protector

Justice Gates, 7, left, puts his arm around his brother, Ajays, 6, as they take a shortcut through Glenwood Cemetery in Tupelo, Miss. The boys always walk home together from school.



## Long-necked love

Babu nuzzles her newborn baby giraffe in their barn at the Chaffee Zoological Gardens in Fresno, Calif.





## Who's up for some Duck, Duck, Goose?

A row of geese waddle along the sidewalk of West Main Street in Bloomsburg, Pa. The gaggle crossed West Main twice, stopping traffic, before heading to Barton Street.



## Remembering lost pets

Michelle Burton, organizer of a memorial service for 79 pet animals who died in a Jan. 24 fire that destroyed the Chippewa County Humane Association shelter, lights candles at Golden Funeral Home in Eau Claire, Wis.



## Spirit head

Mindy Olsson, 12, wears flags in her hair as she waits by the fence at the Bismarck, N.D., airport, hoping to take a picture of the plane carrying her uncle and other members of the North Dakota National Guard 141st Engineer Combat Battalion. The 141st returned from deployment in Iraq.



## Nice ride for a clown

Joan "Jo-Jo" Patty memorizes the words to "A Bushel and a Peck," on her way to deliver a balloon-a-gram in Lake Placid, Fla. Jo-Jo and fellow clowns from Toby the Clown Foundation Inc. in Lake Placid deliver balloon-a-grams as part of a new clown-school fund-raising program.

## Lawyer suing court

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — As the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to decide the constitutionality of displaying the Ten Commandments on government property, a lawyer has sued the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for apparently including an image of the commandments in its official seal.

Ryan Donlon spotted an image of what he believes are the commandments — tablets with 10 indecipherable lines — emblazoned on the seal on the certificate he received in the mail last June when he was admitted to practice law before the court.

In his suit, Donlon said the inclusion of the Ten Commandments on the seal, which is also displayed on other 9th Circuit documents and in court buildings, "has no secular purpose" and violates his right not to be subjected to government endorsement of religion. He seeks a court ban on the seal.

## Tune too similar

**WI** MADISON — Imitation might be a form of flattery, but a little resemblance might be too much of a good thing.

The state tourism agency may scrap the jingle composed for its new ad campaign because it sounds too much like a 1995 song by a British group.

Composer John Tanner has acknowledged similarities, which he said were unintentional, and offered to write new music, says Jim Holperin, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism.

Tanner was paid about \$22,000 to compose original music for the \$2.2 million campaign with a slogan of "Wisconsin — Life's So Good."

The Milwaukee-based musician agreed Monday his music closely resembled the tune "Alright" by Supergrass — a band some say is derivative itself of earlier groups all the way back to the Rolling Stones.

"I turn out it was way, way — even I think now, listening to them side by side — too close to Supergrass," Tanner told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The state has not been contacted by any representative of Supergrass, said Jerry Huffman of the tourism department.

## Stamping out love

**TX** VALENTINE — Love is getting stamped out in this tiny West Texas town.

Valentine's Day cards and letters have been coming to the town's adobe-style post office for weeks as romantics from around the world send messages to get stamped with the distinctive postmark of Valentine, Texas.

With 7,000 cards already behind them Monday, Postmaster Maria Elena Carrasco and her part-time assistant Leslie Williams were greeted with a dozen brimming baskets of cards and letters left by the daily delivery truck that traveled 150 miles from El Paso.

They stamped each piece by hand, and by nightfall, another truck making the return trip picked up the cards and letters for routing to cities coast to coast, border to border. By Carrasco's count, they've also gone to 28 countries.

"It reinforces my belief that there is a lot of love and a lot of people do believe in God because that's

what love is," said Carrasco, who has run the post office since 1990.

## No change in park air

**TN** GATLINBURG — An analysis of air quality data in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park shows pollution isn't getting worse. However, the 10 years of data don't indicate a recovery, said Jim Renfro, a park air quality specialist. He said the Smokies still have severe ozone and acid rain concerns.

## Restaurant charged

**NH** WAKEFIELD — The Pice River Steak House was charged with negligence in two felony indictments for serving drinks to two men who killed themselves and four others in a 100-mph crash a short time later. Casey Davis, 24, and Aaron Parent, 26, left the restaurant with Davis driving and collided head-on with a minivan in Sept. 2001.

## Very valuable find

**WI** ROTHSCCHILD — Jon Jazdzewski made a valuable discovery while driving out of town for business.

Jazdzewski, 52, an employee of Wausau Supply, was leaving town around 4 a.m. on Jan. 28 when he spotted something on the road near the Rothschild Village Hall.

"I knew it was a money bag, and I picked it up," said Jazdzewski, of Kronsweyer.

More than \$850,000 in cash and checks was inside the locked bag, according to city officials.

A police officer had the bag on the trunk of a squad car and then was called to an emergency, Jazdzewski said. The bag apparently slid off the back of the car when the officer pulled away.

"Someone that found the bag was very honest. We are planning on doing something for him," Rothschild Police Chief Bill Schremp said.

## Bus driver charged

**ID** NAMPA — A school bus driver was charged with drug possession and injuring the children on her bus after witnesses said she was driving erratically on her morning route. Theresa Mahurin, 33, was arraigned Tuesday following her arrest a day earlier. Police said she failed sobriety tests and officers found what appeared to be methamphetamine in her purse.

Officials said the children were not physically injured but state law allows the charge of injury to a child if an adult drives child passengers while intoxicated.

Both police and the Brown Bus Co. said they received calls from people who saw Mahurin taking turns too abruptly or too slowly, and not using the bus lights properly.

## Schools to get smaller

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Officials announced that Philadelphia's public high schools are going to get smaller so they can serve students better. District chief Paul Vallas says the Philadelphia School District should have 66 high schools by 2008, up from 38 in 2002. More than half of the schools will have 400 students or fewer.

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES

## Ice plays it nice

Former gangsta rapper reaches out to youngest fans with new movie

BY BETSY PICKLE

Scripts Howard News Service

In his early days with N.W.A. and as a solo rap artist, Ice Cube recorded controversial songs that most adults felt were inappropriate for younger members of his fan base. He's making amends for that now in his movie career with "Are We There Yet?"

"This is an attempt to cater to my youngest fans," says Cube. "I've got kids that are fans of the 'Friday' movies and the 'Barbershop' movies, which are R-rated and PG-13, and those aren't geared for them."

"Here's something that's strictly geared for the kids — not only kids but really the whole family. We made it from a kids' movie — that was the concept — to a movie that the whole family could enjoy because it's not so corny that the parents fall asleep."

A father of four, 35-year-old Cube wasn't worried about providing entertainment for his own children, who have seen some of his R-rated movies.

"I've got the coolest kids," he says of his three sons and daughter. "I don't really hide too much from 'em. I just kinda guide them what age they're at and figure out how

to explain it to 'em and make sure they understand it."

In his new film, Cube plays Nick, a bachelor who hates kids but falls for a divorcee (Nie Long) with a daughter (Aleiasha Allen) and son (Philip Daniel Bolden). He sets out with the youngsters on a 300-mile road trip to unite them with their mom on New Year's Eve.

"Nick has a lot more tolerance than I have," he says. "That's not something you expect to hear from a father."

"That's why I don't have to have that much tolerance, 'cause I am a father," Cube says by phone during a publicity stop in Atlanta.

"They already know what time it is with me. I'm fair, but I'm firm."

Road trips weren't a big part of childhood for Cube, who grew up in South Central Los Angeles with three older siblings, a brother and two sisters. But occasionally his parents would drive them to Oakland or Las Vegas.



KEVIN CLARK/Washington Post

The new kid-friendly movie "Are We There Yet?" marks a switch from more adult-oriented fare for rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube. The success of his PG-13 rated "Barbershop" movies convinced him to try lighter fare for the whole family.

Cube, born O'Shea Jackson, was hooked on movies early and spent weekends as a kid watching everything from Bruce Lee's swan song, "Game of Death," to the musical "Grease."

He began writing raps in high school and had formed N.W.A. with Eazy-E and Dr. Dre before heading to Arizona in 1987 to attend the Phoenix Institute of Technology.

Returning to Los Angeles after earning a one-year degree, he re-joined N.W.A. for the breakthrough album "Straight Outta Compton."

He left the group over conflicts with management in 1989 and began his solo career with "AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted."

Moviemakers first saw him act in 1991's "Boyz n the Hood." He spent most of the 1990s making a mix of action films and dark dramas — "Trespass," "The Glass Shield," "Higher Learning" and

"Three Kings" among them — while continuing to record and guide the careers of other rap artists.

After co-writing and starring in the 1995 comedy "Friday" and writing, directing and acting in 1998's "The Player's Club," Cube had proved he was serious about being a filmmaker. His production company, Cube Vision, has produced the two "Friday" sequels, the "Barbershop" films, "All About the Benjamins," the upcoming "Beauty Shop" and "Are We There Yet?"

But Cube wasn't looking to do a family film.

"When we signed our deal with Revolution [Studios], they had a project that Adam Sandler was supposed to do but couldn't do," he recalls. "They told me to look at it and see if my company would acquire it and tailor-make the movie for me. So I looked at it, I read it and I said, 'OK, I could see where this can go.'"

"It was like the perfect timing, too, because we had just come off the success of 'Barbershop 1' and 'Barbershop 2,' which are PG-13 movies, and they did real well for us, so we felt the audience was ready for something like this."

Cube admits he felt constrained in a PG movie.

"I'm not trying to turn into Eddie Murphy, you know?" he says.

"I don't want to just do kids' movies the rest of my career. I'm a young man, so I'm gonna do a wide range of things."

While shooting "Are We There Yet?" Cube was recruited to star in the sequel to "XXX," "XXX: State of the Union," taking over the franchise started by Vin Diesel.

"For me, it's nothing but career moves, stepping stones to get to where I want to be in Hollywood," he says. His goal is "to be the biggest and the best."

## Salsa star in hot water

Venezuelan salsa star Oscar D'Leon was arrested and jailed when he tried to leave Colombia after failing to perform at a scheduled concert, officials said.

D'Leon, known as the "Devil of Salsa," was detained Monday at the airport in Barranquilla, 435 miles north of Bogotá, as he prepared to return to Venezuela, police said.

Concert organizers had filed a complaint against D'Leon, saying his failure to appear at the concert Friday caused a disturbance as disappointed fans destroyed chairs and other objects. It is illegal in Colombia for anyone with legal proceedings against him or her to leave the country.

D'Leon, who was on the marquee to play in Barranquilla's carnival celebrations, told local Caracol radio Tuesday he backed out because organizers refused to pay an advance fee. But concert organizer Gregorio Rico said an advance payment was made to the salsa star.

## Recipes you'd kill to have

James Gandolfini has a recipe for osso buco he's eager to share. And Edie Falco can't wait for you to try her fettuccine affre-

do. Otherwise, the "Sopranos" stars suggest you "Shut Up and Eat!" — the title of a cookbook coming this fall from Berkley Publishing Group.

Numerous Italian-Americans contributed to the cookbook, including Lorraine Bracco, Chazz Palminteri and

Danny Aiello, who wrote the foreword. The featured writer is another "Sopranos"

performer, Tony Lip, whose many films include "Goodfellas" and "Donnie Brasco."

"When Tony Lip starts writing about Italian food, growing up in the Bronx and his life in the movies, you can't stop reading," Denise Silver-

tro, Berkley's executive editor, said Tuesday.

"All of the aromas of the meals he describes and the memories he shares come wafting off the page like you're sitting in his dining room listening to him talk. His friends' recipes and colorful tales have the same effect."

## Phillips and wife to divorce

The wife of actor Lou Diamond Phillips has filed for divorce, according to court papers.

Phillips, 42, and Kelly Phillips were married in April 1994 and separated Jan. 27, according to a petition filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Kelly Phillips is seeking joint legal custody of the couple's three daughters, but requesting they live with her. The two have 7-year-old twins and a 5-year-old.

Phillips has starred in dozens of TV shows and films, including "La Bamba," "Stand and Deliver" and "Young Guns."

## Van Gogh to stay with Taylor

A Los Angeles judge dismissed a lawsuit by four descendants of a German woman who had sought to recover a valuable Vincent van Gogh painting from actress Elizabeth Taylor.

Taylor failed to review the ownership history of "View of the Asylum of Saint-Remy" before acquiring it more than 40 years ago, the descendants of the late Margaret Mauthner claimed in a lawsuit last July.

The family asked for restitution and the



Lou Diamond Phillips and Kelly Phillips

painting, which has been appraised between \$10 million and \$15 million, containing a sales brochure had warned it was likely confiscated by the Nazis.

In a Feb. 2 order, U.S. District Judge Gary Klausner ruled that a state law only permitted the plaintiffs to sue in the three years after property was taken. Another state law that froze the statute of limitations until the property was located didn't apply, the judge said.

In a statement issued after her lawsuit was filed, Taylor said she hadn't seen information suggesting the painting had been in Nazi possession.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press









## OPINION

## New Iraq gives women something to cling to

**T**ranscending a vast and bitter ocean of cultural differences, the daughter who lost a father embraced the mother who lost a son.

As the crying women went to part, the dog tag of Marine Sgt. Byron Norwood wouldn't let them. It caught in their clothing, as if some greater power wanted the moment to linger and permeate our nation's war-weary soul.

A Hollywood director couldn't have staged a more inspirational and, paradoxically, heartbreaking symbol of the blood two nations have spilled in freedom's name. The hug received the longest standing ovation at President Bush's State of the Union address.

It stands as a good omen for Iraq's potential to emerge from U.S. occupation into a self-defining democracy in which women not only vote but also can influence and participate in every aspect of that nation's civic life. In a country like Iraq — wracked by decades of

totalitarian rule — the recent elections to pick members of the Transitional National Assembly signal a powerful turning point.

Bush noted that Safia Taleb al-Suhail, the leader of the Iraqi Women's Political Council, having suffered the assassination of her fiancé by Saddam Hussein's sons 11 years ago, had now proudly voted in the elections to pick assembly members who will draft the new constitution. Janet Norwood, who sat behind the Iraqi woman, paid a heavy price to make that election possible. Her son was killed Nov. 13, fighting insurgents in Sunni-dominated Fallujah.

No one understands better the tyranny of the "majority" than women everywhere. It is a shared history, one that denied women the right to vote in America until 1920 and still blocks women from that basic right in "progressive" countries such as Kuwait, where women doctors save lives but can't fully participate in choosing their leaders.

How ever we may feel about the Bush administration's botched-up reasons for going to war in Iraq, there should be unanimity among women of all creeds in supporting elections there. Because it is Iraq's women who not only stand to gain the most, but they may well be the

last, best hope the world has for Iraq to become a transparent democracy, one that respects the different ethnic groups and religious beliefs that Iraq's diverse populations espouse. As Iraq goes, so will much of the Middle East.

This wouldn't be the first time that Iraq has granted equal rights for women despite religious objections to those who want Islamic Law, or Sharia, to reign supreme in civic life. In 1959, Iraq decreed equal inheritance rights for men and women, for instance — a law Saddam's Baath Party abolished in 1963. Sunnis got all the privileges under Saddam, and Shiites, who are the majority, suffered his wrath, as did the Kurds in northern Iraq.

The Fedayeen Saddam, the paramilitary group run by Saddam's sadistic son Uday, beheaded more than 200 Iraqi women (May he rest in hell). More than 4,000 women, according to the United Nations, were killed, many stoned to death, for "tarnishing family honor."

When the U.S.-appointed Governing Council in Iraq was negotiating last year the conditions for holding elections for a transitional government, the Shiite majority moved to have Sharia govern personal life and family law. No surprise — the council was entirely



Janet Norwood, right, hugs Safia Taleb al-Suhail during the State of the Union address Feb. 2 in Washington. Both women lost loved ones in Iraq.

male. Resolution 137 would have denied women basic civil rights. It was a defining moment for Iraqi women.

H.E. Neseen Bervari, minister of municipalities and public works and one of only six women among 30 Cabinet posts in Iraq's interim government, calls the resolution "a blessing in disguise." Its passage motivated Iraqi women to organize and demonstrate and successfully represent themselves," she noted last year during a U.S. visit.

Women came together — Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians, Assyrians, Turkmen — to have the

council retract Resolution 137 and then pushed for women to get seats in the transitional government.

Some men walked out in disgust, but the women prevailed. The council set a goal (not a quota) of having women elected to at least 25 percent of the seats in the transitional government. We'll know soon if the goal was met, but hopeful Iraqi women certainly had their say on Election Day.

Safia Taleb al-Suhail and Janet Norwood's embrace was a bitter-sweet reminder that freedom's best friend everywhere is an ever-hopeful heart.

Myriam Marquez is an editorial page columnist for The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

## Bush budget reflects a fighting force in transition

**P**resident Bush has presented what is barring shooting wars with Iran, Syria or North Korea — almost certainly will be the largest defense budget of his presidency. It calls for spending \$419 billion, a 4.8 percent increase over last year, 41 percent more than his first budget proposal in 2001.

The budget doesn't include the costs of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will be covered in an \$80 billion supplemental appropriation later this year.

When the supplemental is added to the president's budget, total defense spending, in inflation-adjusted dollars, will be about 15 percent higher than the average for defense spending during the Cold War, said Steven Kosiak, an analyst for the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Congress almost certainly will approve both the budget request and the supplemental this year without much alteration, Kosiak said. But congressional attitudes will change in the years to come if President Bush is reasonably successful in capping domestic spending, and/or concern about budget deficits rises. Almost all the budget cuts made in the late 1980s and early 1990s were made in defense, he noted.

Defense spending is higher now in substantial part because of cuts made during the Clinton administration. Pentagon leaders are trying not only to fight a war, but to recoup spending on modern weapons deferred during the Clinton years.

Military leaders customarily make unrealistic spending plans, assuming, against all evidence, that they'll get well in the out years. With congressional and public attitudes like-

ly soon to turn sharply south, bitter choices need to be made.

Retired Marine Col. Robert Work, now a colleague of Kosiak's at CSBA, said this year's is a "holding budget." It postpones all the hard decisions on procurement to the latter part of the future year defense plan. We won't know what they'll be until after the QDR."

The Quadrennial Defense Review is an examination of defense strategy that occurs in the first year of a presidential term. Normally, the military services hold most of the cards in these reviews, because the defense secretary and his aides customarily are new at their jobs, so they defer to what the services say they need, said Work, who was an aide to the secretary of the Navy during the last QDR.

But this year, he said, a "perfect storm" is brewing. Donald Rumsfeld has been through a QDR before, as has most of his management team. And the war on terror has revealed a quite different enemy from

the one the military was planning to fight. From the end of the Cold War until the insurgency in Iraq, military planning has focused on being able to fight two regional conventional conflicts at the same time. The military planned to smash the enemy quickly — chiefly through air power — and then go home.

But the insurgency in Iraq shows there are no quick exits in the war on terror, and today's enemies are unwilling to concentrate in places and ways that make them easy to smash. Rumsfeld wants to reorient defense planning and force structure on the assumptions that an attack on the U.S. homeland — possibly with nuclear weapons — is the central threat, and that the global war on terror is not going to end any time soon.

There are powerful hints of this reorientation in this year's budget. It contains \$9.5 billion for items pertaining to homeland security, items that didn't appear in the defense budget at all before Sept. 11.

Special Operations Command — which

contains commandos from the Army, Navy and Air Force — will grow by 200 civilians and 1,200 military personnel.

The Army and Marine Corps are adding combat units, while the Navy and Air Force are shedding some sailors and airmen.

Spending for unmanned systems such as the Predator drone and "transitional" weapons such as the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship and the Army's Future Combat System received increases, while traditional Navy shipbuilding and Air Force aircraft procurement took major hits.

These hits were taken while the defense budget was growing substantially. There will be more and deeper cuts when defense budgets stabilize, or go down. The Pentagon is about to be transformed into a slaughterhouse for sacred cows. The bleating will be heard to high heaven.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Jack Kelly



## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





# Horoscope

The moon enters Aries this morning, putting a zap and a zing behind the day's events. Ambition is on the rise, as we head into the weekend hoping to accomplish something more than a little rest and relaxation. Socializing that also serves a business purpose will be especially appealing now that Mars is transiting through Capricorn.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY**  
(February 11). Reconciliation rules in the coming year. Love blooms anew when an old flame re-ignites in the next 10 weeks. If you desire, a reunion is possible. In May, a client you thought you'd lost comes back with an offer to consider. By July, a new perspective regarding a recurring issue could lead you to a solution once and for all. Love signs are Libra and Aries.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** A haring energy surrounds your romantic relationship, soothing your frazzled nerves while firing up the libido. Reach a compromise with regard to what to do for fun. True victory is when both sides feel they've won.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You strike a fair balance between work and play as you move through your day. Keep your goals at the forefront of your mind. Success is achieved through perseverance, scholarly pursuit and basic decency.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** A newly emerging relationship is destined to be deeper and more fulfilling than previous engagements. If tension arises with a long-term sweetheart, know that you will work out any problems. All is well in your world.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Nothing says "home sweet home" like soup from scratch, a soak in the tub, and the company of those you love. You can have all of that as a go-with-the-flow vibe sweeps you blissfully along. No worries.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** People open up to you easily, considering their innermost fears. And why not?

You're a great listener! A new person in the life demands that you pay attention to details. Your efforts will be rewarded tenfold.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're notoriously good at saving money for a rainy day, but sometimes you've got to cut loose and spend some dough so that more of it will come back to you. Consider it a karmic law of abundance. Happy shopping.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Feel the light slowly moving toward equilibrium. Your mood should be brightening as the days grow longer. Nevertheless, it's only natural for you to want to hibernate during winter. Friends understand why you haven't been around.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Don't know if you're coming or going? Try to think like a drop of water. Whether it's frozen solid as ice, floating on air as steam or in its natural liquid form, water is infinitely adaptable. Change is good.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** One of the most athletic of the signs, you like to work up a good sweat. Why not organize a group sporting event while the stars favor friendship? Ice skating or hockey can be great winter fun.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** As Mick Jagger says, "You can't always get what you want." You're such a dynamo at the office that you're bound to have the occasional setback. Just take it in stride. It will all work out in the end.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Things are zipping along so quickly, you feel like you're on a rocket ship to the stars, with all of life's little problems disappearing behind you like a tiny pinpoint of light. Can you hear me, Major Tom?

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** It's a misconception that fish are colorblind. The amount of color a fish can see depends on how much light is down there in the deep. Get the full spectrum. Life may be a lot more vibrant than you think.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

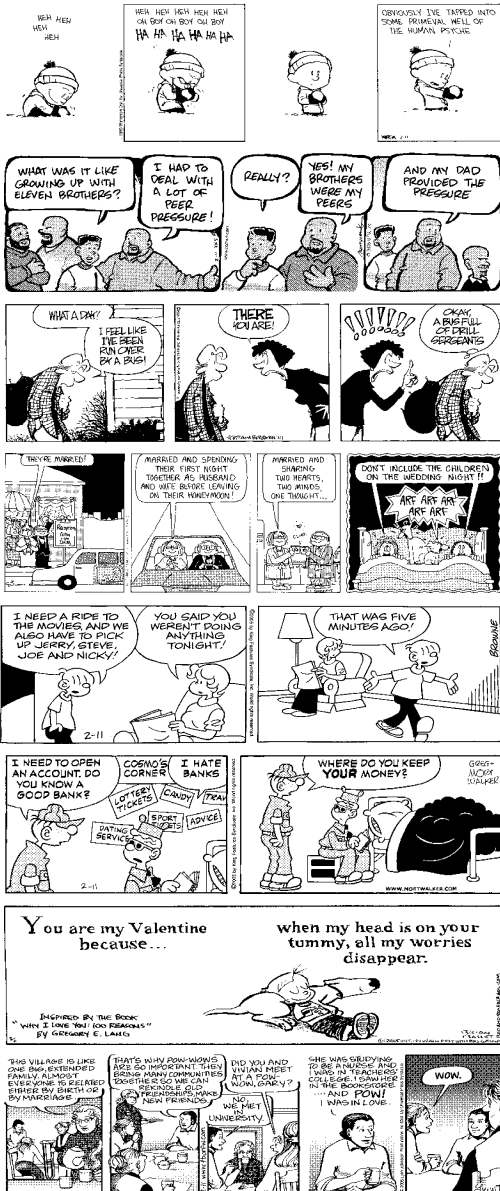
Cathy

Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse



## Peanuts







# Day sleeper shouldn't be disturbed

**Dear Abby:** I work a night-shift job, as does my sister-in-law, who lives in my home. People who don't work nights cannot seem to understand the need for us to get our sleep during the day. They frequently call at noon, wondering why we're not up yet.

These people need to know that noon is just like midnight for people who work the day shift.

Many nights I go to work on less than four hours of sleep, mainly because if people can't reach me on the house phone, they'll call my cell phone, which is the emergency number for my husband and kids.

My answering machine clearly states that I "work nights and sleep days, so please leave a message and I'll return the call."

Your column is widely read, and I'm certain that a good number of other night-shift workers would appreciate it if you could spread the word: Those of us

who work nights need the same amount of sleep that people who work days do.

— **Sleepless in Missouri**  
*Dear Sleepless:* I'm pleased to help spread the word. For callers to bypass your answering machine and use your cell phone number is rude, considerate, and could endanger your health.

In the interests of self-preservation, change your cell phone number, and instruct your husband and kids not to disclose it to anyone.

**Dear Abby:** I am the happily married mother of 1-year-old and 2-year-old boys; "Jonathan" is the older and "Kevin" is my baby. Because my elderly parents live close by, we make sure they see our children often. Also, I make time every morning to talk to my mother.

It has become clear to my husband and me that Mom fa-

vors Jonathan. When Kevin was an infant, Mom would literally step over him to get to Jonathan. Until it caused a rift, she would "jokingly" refer to Kevin as "the other one."

I have confronted Mother more times than I can count. Most times she denies it; sometimes she says she feels Jonathan is just "special." The boys are still too young to understand, but it won't always be that way. My husband's family is not involved much in our lives, so mine is extra-important. How do I deal with this problem?

— **Distressed in Dayton**  
*Dear Distressed:* Since reasoning with your mother hasn't helped, it's time to lay down the law. Tell her either she becomes a better actress in dealing with the boys, or you'll be forced to limit her access to them. And if she doesn't shape up, act on it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6944, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

## Dear Abby



My answering machine clearly states that I "work nights and sleep days, so please leave a message and I'll return the call."

Your column is widely read, and I'm certain that a good number of other night-shift workers would appreciate it if you could spread the word: Those of us

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrillon

Oh, he's so cute. Can we take him home? Please! Please!



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUMMY TAFFY OCELOT GROTTOT Answer: When he ordered one for the road, he — GOT A CAR

# Abuses should be brought to light

**Dear Annie:** Several of our children, along with other children from our neighborhood, will be going back to their regular day camp this summer. There is one problem — "Willie" the son of the groundskeeper.

This lad is a vile-tongued, sadistic monster who teaches our kids vulgar language, tortures animals, steals, bullies and, in one instance, dumped liquid soap all over a kid's gym bag while the boys were changing clothes. In short, Willie is fym, and he learns it from his father.

Because Willie's father is an employee, the boy gets to do activities with the campers. When one camper came home in tears after Willie's treatment, we called the camp director. We were told Willie is unhappy because his grandfather (the only affectionate relative he had) died recently, and his father hits him a lot if he gets into trouble. The director is reluctant to tell his father to "straighten him

## Annie's Mailbox



out." Are our children obligated to put up with this? I don't understand why this emotionally disturbed little trash bag has to be around my children. And please don't tell me I should ask my kids to show Willie love and kindness, because my children are not mental health professionals.

Can I legally force the camp director to do something? Other than this one problem, the camp is a wonderful place. But is it worth it to send my kids there?

— **Unsure**  
*Dear Unsure:* You have more than one issue going on here. If Willie is being abused by his father, you have an obligation to report it to the authorities. If the camp is not protecting your child from an abusive campmate, you should not send your child there, and the director should know why. If Willie is torturing animals, he has some serious psychopathic tendencies and should

be seen by a therapist before he starts torturing little children the same way. It's time to speak up.

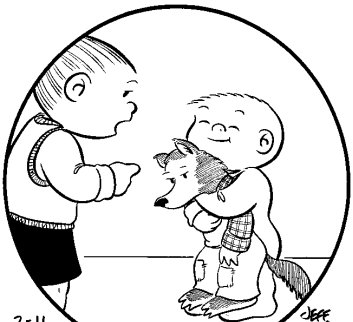
**Dear Annie:** I am writing about the letter from "Ex-Law Enforcement Civilian in Sacramento, Calif.," who was bullied at work by two women. Believe me, this is not an isolated case. Our son took his life after many months of harassment at his place of employment.

Shortly after his death, another employee took his life. We later found out that our son's death was the fifth suicide in 25 years for this company. Although your writer lost a nice pension, she escaped with her life intact. Unfortunately, our son did not.

— **A Wisconsinite**  
*Dear Wisconsinite:* How horrible for you that this situation wasn't discovered and rectified before it was too late.

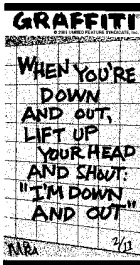
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus

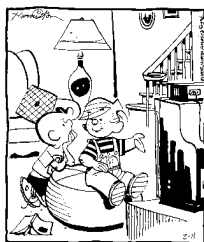


2-11  
© 2005 B. Keane, Inc.  
Use by syndicates only  
[www.familycircus.com](http://www.familycircus.com)

"Don't hug the Big Bad Wolf, P.J. You're s'posed to be afraid of him!"



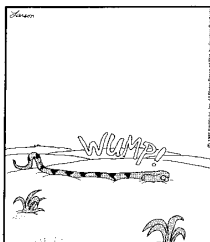
## Demis the Menace



"THE GOOD THING ABOUT FALSE TEETH IS NO CAVITIES... AND YOU CAN TALK WHILE YOU BRUSH 'EM."

## © Gary Larson

## The Far Side



When snakes tip

## Non Sequitur





# First-time Pro Bowler Brees eager to return to Chargers

BY JAYMES SONG

The Associated Press

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — Drew Brees came to Hawaii four years ago as a college all-star, looking to impress NFL teams in the Hula Bowl.

Brees is back on the islands, practicing with the league's best and preparing for his first appearance in the Pro Bowl. And he's looking for respect and a long-term contract from the San Diego Chargers.

Less than a year after San Diego all but gave up on him and selected Philip Rivers on draft day, Brees is still basking in the glow of his superb season and the Chargers' AFC West title.

His performance at the end of his four-year contract earned him a spot alongside Peyton Manning and Tom Brady on the AFC roster for the NFL's all-star game Sunday. It also made him one of the NFL's most attractive free agents, but Brees would rather remain with the club that didn't seem eager to stick with him.

"I want to stay in San Diego, absolutely," he said. "I want a long-term deal, because I feel like

I'm the guy, I'm the guy that needs to be there and lead us to a championship, so that's the way I feel about it."

"The ball is in their court, obviously, and we'll just see what happens."

Brees' life has changed dramatically in the four years since he represented Purdue in the Hula Bowl.

"I got married, had good seasons and bad seasons, battled for my starting job on two occasions, been benched a few times," he said. "I guess it's been a learning experience, but it has molded me into the person and player that I am now."

Brees was voted the NFL's comeback player of the year after throwing for 3,159 yards and 27 touchdowns with just seven interceptions in the regular season. In the playoffs, he passed for 319 yards and two TDs in the 20-17 overtime loss to the New York Jets.

"We didn't accomplish our ultimate goal, to win a championship, but we kind of paved the way for the future," he said. "We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to be

happy about. We just have to keep improving."

Teammate LaDainian Tomlinson, making his second Pro Bowl appearance, also wants Brees to stay, but the running back said he has no control over the situation. Tomlinson and Brees are close friends, and they planned to spend much of their free time in Hawaii together with their families.

"He's a leader. That sums it up in one word," Tomlinson said. "He's a good friend and a good teammate."

Brees and Tomlinson are San Diego's first quarterback-running back duo to make the Pro Bowl together since Dan Fouts and Chuck Muncie in the early 1980s. Tight end Antonio Gates also made the trip to Hawaii, earning his first Pro Bowl berth in just his second NFL season.

"Obviously, with guys like LT and Gates, I think we built a solid foundation," Brees said. "I think we all see in one another that we can build something special with the Chargers. We want to keep that continuity and keep those familiar faces around."

The Chargers might designate



**Chargers quarterback Drew Brees plays catch with Patriots quarterback Tom Brady during an AFC practice for Sunday's Pro Bowl.**

Brees as their franchise player this month, giving him a one-year contract over worth around \$9 million. If Brees signs it, the club then could trade him or let him compete for the starting job with Rivers, who was obtained in a draft-day trade with the New York Giants.

Rivers held out for half of training camp, allowing Brees to keep the starting job — and Brees used the challenge to motivate himself to his best professional season.

And just as he did four years ago in the Hula Bowl, when many questioned his future as a first-round NFL quarterback, Brees is proving he's one of the best.

"We didn't play to our people wrong. There is some satisfaction out of that, but I think it's really just a personal fear of failure," he said. "It's the feeling that you want to be the best. Then you just fight, fight, fight to try to be that person, and you don't worry about what other people say."

## McNabb denies claims he was ill

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — Donovan McNabb has no apologies for his Super Bowl performance. He won't allow his teammates to make excuses, either.

The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback set everyone straight

after his first practice for the Pro Bowl on Wednesday. McNabb said he wasn't ill during the fourth quarter of the loss to New England, as center Hank Fraley claimed earlier this week, and receiver Freddie Mitchell certainly didn't call any plays for him.

The Eagles' offensive struggles were caused only by the Patriots and the tension of a Super Bowl, not a phantom sickness.

"No, I wasn't sick and, no, I didn't throw up," McNabb said. "If people want to use that as an excuse for why we lost, that's not the way it was, but I'll put it on my shoulders. I'll take the blame. ... When you're trying to make every play possible, you have to dig deep. We were just trying to give it all we had."

McNabb raised the subject two days after Fraley told a Philadelphia TV station that his quarter-

back was seriously ill late in the game last Sunday, forcing Mitchell to help out in the huddle by calling a play. Mitchell said in another TV interview that he finished a play call.

McNabb "fought to the end. He gave it all," Fraley said on Comcast SportsNet. "He could hardly call the plays — that's how exhausted he was trying to give it all. If you remember back two years ago and he ended up puking, it was close to that scene. He exhausted everything he had."

While Fraley apparently meant to praise his quarterback's toughness by describing his condition, McNabb perceived it as an attempt to excuse the Eagles' performance in the second half. He was bothered by the endless television replays of Fraley's comments in recent days.

### Pro Bowl Roster

(x=starred; y=injured, will not play; c=retired replacement)

American Football Conference

Offense

**Wide Receivers** — x-Mustin Harrison, Indianapolis; x-Chad Johnson, Cincinnati; Andre Johnson, Houston; Wes Ward, Pittsburgh.

**Tackles** — x-Jonathan Ogden, Baltimore; x-Willie Randolph, Kansas City; Willie Anderson, Cincinnati; x-Marvel Smith, Pittsburgh.

**Guards** — x-Alan Fries, Pittsburgh; x-Charles Wells, Kansas City; Willie Anderson, Kansas City.

**Centers** — x-Kevin Mawae, New York Jets; Jeff Hartung, Pittsburgh.

**Quarterbacks** — x-Antonio Gates, San Diego; Tony Gonzalez, Kansas City.

**Running Backs** — x-Peyton Manning, Indianapolis; Tom Brady, New England; Drew Brees, San Diego.

**Defensive Line** — x-Eddie Brown, Indianapolis; Curtis Martin, New York Jets; LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego; x-Joe Mullen, New England; x-Bernie Berke, Kansas City.

**Linebackers** — x-Tony Richardson, Kansas City.

**Defensive Backs** — x-John Abraham, New York Jets; x-Dwight Freeney, Indianapolis; Jason Taylor, Miami; x-Karon Smith, Pittsburgh.

**Cornerbacks** — x-Richard Seymour, New England; x-Marcus Stroud, Jacksonville; x-Takeo Spikes, Buffalo; x-Terrell Suggs, Baltimore; x-John Henderson, San Antonio; x-John Henderson, San Antonio.

**Inside Linebackers** — x-Ray Lewis, Baltimore; x-James Harrison, Pittsburgh; x-Tony Stewart, New England.

**Outside Linebackers** — x-Champ Bailey, Denver; x-Chris McAlister, Baltimore; Tony James, Cincinnati; x-Patrick Swilling, Miami.

**Safety** — x-Dwight Freeney, Baltimore; x-Dwight Freeney, Baltimore; x-Dwight Freeney, Baltimore.

**Kicker** — x-Shane Letcher, Oakland.

**Punter** — x-Adam Vinatieri, New England.

**Kick Return Specialist** — x-Terrence McGee, Buffalo.

**Special Team** — x-Larry Izzo, New England.

National Football Conference

Offense

**Wide Receivers** — x-Mustin Muhammad, Carolina; x-Terrell Owens, Philadelphia; Joe Horn, New Orleans; Jason Witten, Dallas; x-Dezhaan Jackson, Dallas; x-Dezhaan Jackson, Dallas.

**Tackles** — x-Walter Jones, Seattle; x-Corlando Pace, Los Angeles; x-Tra Thomas, Philadelphia.

**Centers** — x-Larry Allen, Dallas; x-Marcus Rivera, Green Bay; Steve Hutchinson, Seattle.

**Guards** — x-Kyle Rucker, Chicago; Matt Birk, Denver.

**Quarterbacks** — x-Alge Crumpler, Atlanta; Jason Witten, Dallas.

**Running Backs** — x-Shawn Alexander, Seattle; Adrian Green, Green Bay; Tiki Barber, New York Giants.

**Defensive Line** — x-William Henderson, Green Bay.

**Linebackers** — x-Bertrand Berry, Arizona; x-Juan Rivera, Carolina; Patrick Kerney, Atlanta.

**Cornerbacks** — x-Larry Izzo, New England; x-John Abraham, New York Jets; x-Dwight Freeney, Indianapolis.

**Quarterbacks** — x-Dan Morgan, Carolina; Jeremiah Trotter, Philadelphia.

**Running Backs** — x-Dan Morgan, Carolina; Jeremiah Trotter, Philadelphia.

**Defensive Line** — x-Dan Morgan, Carolina; Jeremiah Trotter, Philadelphia.

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### Don't Shortchange Your Body

www.sweetitout.com

# It's now or never

## Bettman sets weekend deadline for deal or NHL shutdown

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

By this weekend, the NHL will either have a surprising deal that saves the hockey season or a dubious place in history.

The long-awaited deadline is set. If the league and the union can't hammer out a new collective bargaining agreement in this last round of talks that started recently in Toronto on Wednesday, commissioner Gary Bettman will pull the plug.

The NHL would then have the distinction of being the first North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute.

Bettman would rather not have that mark on his record but cautioned that the right deal is necessary for the NHL to survive.

"This has just been a very difficult, frustrating process and again, I'm sorry we have to go through it," he said. "But we had no choice."

Bettman and Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, had dinner late Wednesday night with players' association executive director Bob Goodenow and senior director Ted Saksin but there were no formal discussions, a source close to the negotiations said. The Associated Press on Thursday announced a deal.

The group met again at the league's office in Toronto on Thursday morning.

The offer reached its 148th day Thursday. If a deal is reached, Bettman said, there would be a 28-game regular season and the 16-team playoff structure would be preserved.

"It is clear to me that if we're



Bettman

not working on a written document by this weekend, I don't see how we can play any semblance of a season," Bettman said. "Obviously we will listen to everything the union has to say, but we've given all we can give and gone as far as we can go."

Bettman and Daly visited the players' association office in Toronto. The union made it clear that it wasn't going to initiate new talks this week, so the league took a new offer to the players.

"It's really not what neither's a better deal or a worse deal — it's the right deal, it's the fair deal," Goodenow said. "We've always been focused on those principles."

The NHL handed over what it called "a compromise proposal."

It presented the idea that a new deal be made using the players' association's proposal from Dec. 9 that included a luxury-tax system and a 24 percent salary rollback on existing contracts.

But if any one of four financial conditions set forth by the league were exceeded, then the NHL's salary-cap offer from last week would go into effect the following season. Teams would then be forced to spend at least \$32 million on player costs but no more than \$42 million, including benefits.

"The NHL delivered a one-page concept to us which they tried to suggest represented a compromise," Goodenow said.

The league's proposal was a transparent attempt to impose on our Dec. 9 proposal the effects of their twice-rejected Feb. 2 triple-cap proposal.

Goodenow said that one of the four limits would immediately be exceeded if this deal was put in place, and others could be easily reached.

The union asked Bettman and Daly to stay in Toronto through Thursday for negotiating sessions.

Goodenow said they would try to figure out new ways to get over the main stumbling block of a salary cap, but added that the players' association would not offer a new proposal Thursday.

"We'll have conversations about these difficult areas and see if we can't come up with an idea, a framework or a mechanism for some common ground," Goodenow said. "The prospect that we'd be able to conclude an agreement by the end of the weekend is very daunting."

"It is possible, but I don't want to discuss the levels of probability."

The lockout has wiped out 824 of the 1,230 regular-season games through Thursday, as well as this weekend's scheduled All-Star game. If the season is canceled, there is no telling when there will be NHL hockey again.

The NHL has been intent on making a deal that promises a split between league revenues and player costs. The players' association has steadfastly refused to accept a salary cap as a solution to the stalemate.

# 'Herminator' wins GS; Rahlves claims bronze

By ANDREW DAMPF

The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Hermann Maier won the giant slalom in the world ski championships on Thursday, his first world or Olympic title since nearly losing his right leg in a motorcycle accident four years ago.

The Austrian missed the 2002 Olympics after shattering his right leg in the August 2001 crash. He returned for the second half of the 2002-03 season, and won his fourth World Cup overall title last year.

Maier hadn't won a gold medal, however, since winning the downhill and super-G races in the 1999 world titles at Val, Colo. "It's a great feeling for me because so many things have happened since this time six years ago," Maier said. "All the medals I've won are important, but this one has an even more specific meaning, after my crash being able to stand back up so to speak."

Maier, second after the first leg, completed two runs down the Stelvio course in 2 minutes, 50.41 seconds.

Fellow Austrian Benjamin Raich took the silver with the fastest second run, moving up from seventh after the opening leg. He finished 0.25 seconds behind his third medal of the championships, after taking bronze in super-G and winning the combined race.

First-run leader Daron Rahlves of the United States claimed the bronze, 0.68 back.

Rahlves was the final skier in the second leg. After seeing the American's time, Maier let out a

loud scream in the finish area, and thrust his arms into the air toward his huge fan club.

"This is a very important victory for me, especially on this course which is very, very difficult," Maier said. "Daron was super on the first run and I knew he had six-tenths of a second, so I had to be very good on my second run."

After the race's 24-hour postponement due to a strike by Italian TV workers, most of Maier's supporters paid an extra day's hotel bill to see him ski.

"The Herminator" did not disappoint and, having also won both speed races in the 1998 Olympics, earned his fifth gold in a major championship.

"I will pay for their rooms maybe with this prize money," Maier said.

Defending champion Bode Miller, the American who leads this season's overall World Cup standings, needed two stitches to close a cut on his chin after he lost control on the first run and slammed into an advertising banner.

Miller will have to wait until Saturday's slalom race for a chance at a third gold medal after winning the super-G and downhill races.

Rahlves, who finished second behind Miller in the downhill, posted his best career giant slalom result.

"I'm certainly happy to get a medal but I'm still disappointed. I knew I'd have to go for it but I was too round, too loose at the top," Rahlves said of his second run. "But the best thing for me today is to know my GS is there."

# U.S. wins World Cup soccer qualifier

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad — Eddie Johnson knows this type of personal success probably won't last.

Johnson scored a goal in his fourth straight game to put the United States ahead against Trinidad and Tobago, Eddie Lewis headed the lead early in the second half and Kasey Keller made some great saves in a 2-1 victory Wednesday in the opener of the final round of World Cup qualifying.

"He's still a little bit inexperienced, but there's so many good qualities: size, strength, ability to take people on, speed, ability to head the ball," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said of the 20-year-old Johnson.

"Bruce told me it's only going to get harder," Johnson said. "I'm not going to score a goal in every game. It was tougher."

Less than three weeks ago, the Americans didn't even know if they would have their top players or if they would send a team of minor league players because of a labor dispute. But an interim settlement ensured the regulars would be on

the field through 2005, and the 11th-ranked U.S. team imposed its will on No. 61 Trinidad and Tobago until tiring in the final minutes.

"It's massive," Keller said, "especially with all the drama that's gone on around the team. The guys came together and got a great victory."

Until Angus Eve scored in the 89th minute on a cross that went in off Keller's hand, the home team did not have much reason to cheer.

The United States, which plays its next qualifier at Mexico on March 27, is 23-0-7 against North and Central American and Caribbean rivals since a September 2001 loss at Costa Rica. The Americans haven't lost to a Caribbean opponent since a 1994 defeat in Trinidad.

"There were a bunch of reasons why we couldn't be successful today," Arena said. "We never agreed with that. I think the way our team pulled together over the last couple of weeks to be ready to play this game under difficult conditions — travel, field conditions, the heat, everything else — it turns out to be a fantastic result."

In the region's other qualifiers, Mexico won 2-1 at Costa Rica as Juan Lozano scored in the eighth and ninth minutes and Guatemala and Panama played a 0-0 tie in Panama City.

Ash Wednesday usually is a beach day in this Caribbean nation, where the Carnival celebration that ends the previous night is huge. But the steel and samba drums were sounding for the Soca Warriors in the searing 90-degree heat at the Queen's Park Oval, with T&T hoping to continue the celebration and exact revenge for the November 1989 loss to the Americans that denied it a berth in the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Johnson struck in the 30th minute, just as Paul Caligiuri did 15 years ago in the famous qualifier at nearby Hasley Crawford Stadium, a game that put the United States in soccer's top event for the first time since 1950.

Coming down the right flank of the 80-yard-wide field, Steve Cherundolo crossed the ball into the penalty area and Johnson, with no defenders close on the near post, headed the ball into the net from 2 yards out. Goalkeeper Neil Shaka Hislop had no chance.

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# Steroids overshadow All-Star announcement

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Commissioner Bud Selig knew what direction questions would go when he came to the area that's been at the center of baseball's steroid scandal.

It took only a short time for the topic Wednesday to shift from San Francisco being awarded the 2007 All-Star Game to the controversy surrounding BALCO, Jose Canseco's upcoming book and baseball's new steroid policy.

"I'm shocked it took 10 minutes for somebody to ask that question," Selig said when asked about the book by Canseco that reportedly accuses Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Ivan Rodriguez, Rafael Palmeiro and Juan Gonzalez of steroid use.

The new book by Oakland's former MVP and the BALCO investigation that has cast a cloud over Giambi, Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield and other players has made the Bay Area the center point of the steroid controversy.

Selig wouldn't directly comment on Canseco's book, but said baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson, a former president and general manager of the A's, would address the book after it's released next week.

Selig did say he is confident that baseball's new steroid policy will be in place when spring training opens next week and dismissed criticism that it does not go far enough to rid the game of performance-enhancing drugs.

"As a sport, we have done ev-

## Briefs

everything that we could at this point," he said. "There are immediate penalties, random testing, a player gets publicly named if heaven forbid he does test positively."

"I'm very sensitive about this whole subject, but I think the sport has addressed it. It isn't as if we have ignored it."

Baseball didn't have a steroid policy until 2002, when allegations by former MVPs Canseco and Ken Caminiti pressured players and management to negotiate one into the new labor agreement.

That policy, which consisted of only survey testing the first year and no suspensions until a second positive test after that, was ridiculed as ineffective.

With some of its biggest stars under suspicion and lawmakers demanding action, baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program last month that will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

## Pettitte has first workout from mound since surgery

HOUSTON — Houston Astros pitcher Andy Pettitte threw 25 fastballs Wednesday in his first workout on the mound since he had elbow surgery six months ago.

"It felt good just to get back on the mound," Pettitte told Houston



**Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, middle, is confident that baseball's new steroids policy will be in place by the time spring training opens.**

television station KRIV. "Now I can start getting ready, just building up my arm strength."

Pettitte underwent surgery during the summer to repair a torn flexor tendon in his pitching elbow. Because of the injury, he appeared in only 15 games and finished 6-4.

## Cubs trade RHP Farnsworth to Tigers

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs traded right-handed reliever Kyle Farnsworth and a player to be named to the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday for pitcher Roberto Novoa and two minor leaguers. Farnsworth, whose fastball has been clocked at 100 mph, was 4-5 with a 4.73 ERA last season for Chicago. He struck out 78 batters in 66 1/3 innings.

# Referee suspended in German soccer scandal

The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The referee who took bribes to fix games was suspended by the German Soccer Federation on Thursday in the country's worst corruption scandal in the sport in more than 30 years.

The federation said Robert Hoyzer's suspension was for "unsportsmanlike conduct." He has admitted rigging four games in return for \$85,000 from a gambling syndicate led by three Croatian brothers, who have been arrested. He tried to manipulate two other games without success, and in one game his help wasn't needed.

The growing scandal has overshadowed Germany's preparations to host next year's World Cup.

Hoyzer has implicated others, and Berlin prosecutors are investigating 25 people, including three other referees and 14 players, on suspicion of fixing at least games, mostly in the lower divisions.

Hoyzer was questioned this week by a soccer federation lawyer, and faces another formal hearing that could result in a lifetime ban. If charged and convicted of fraud, Hoyzer could spend up to 10 years in jail.

## Former Iowa basketball player Pierce charged

ADEL, Iowa — Former Iowa basketball player Pierre Pierce was charged Wednesday with burglary and domestic assault and spent several hours in jail before he was released.

Pierce was also charged with burglary, false imprisonment, assault with intent to commit sexual abuse and criminal mischief.

Pierce was released last Wednesday on his own recognizance.

The player's lawyer, Alfredo Parrish, said Pierce "intends to fight these charges with every fiber in his soul." A preliminary hearing was tentatively set for Feb. 21.

Pierce, the team's leading scorer, was kicked off the team after police confirmed he was the subject of an investigation into a matter at the townhouse of a former girlfriend.

## UConn's Anderson hospitalized with leg infection

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut leading scorer Rashad Anderson is not expected to play in the Huskies' home game Sunday against second-ranked North Carolina because of an infection in his upper right leg, team officials said Thursday.

Anderson spent two nights at Windham Hospital, near the Storrs campus, but was transferred Thursday morning to Hartford Hospital for further treatment in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, school officials said in a statement. Anderson was checked into Windham on Tuesday for a skin abscess on his leg. He had the abscess drained and was put on intravenous antibiotics.

Anderson has averaged a team-best 13.8 points for the 19th-ranked Huskies.

Citing federal privacy laws, the school did not release further details.

## Sports briefs

### Lakers' Bryant will play in All-Star Game if healthy

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Although Kobe Bryant doesn't have a timetable for playing again for the Los Angeles Lakers, he intends to appear in the NBA All-Star Game if his severely sprained right ankle is healed.

"The important thing is to be healthy," Bryant said Wednesday evening before the Lakers played the New Jersey Nets. "I am not going to feel obligated to play because it's the All-Star Game."

"The most important thing is helping us win ball games. If my ankle is ready to go, I'll play."

The game is scheduled for Feb. 20 in Denver.

Bryant, the NBA's second-leading scorer with a 27.5 average, missed the 13th straight game Wednesday night. The eight-year veteran was injured against Cleveland on Jan. 13.

### Thrashers' Heatley signs with Russian team

MOSCOW — Dany Heatley signed with a Russian hockey team Thursday, less than a week after pleading guilty to charges in the 2003 death of Atlanta Thrashers teammate Dan Snyder and being sentenced to three years' probation.

Heatley, MVP of the 2003 NHL All-Star Game, will join Atlanta's Ilya Kovalchuk with AK Bars Kazan, a Russian hockey team.

NHL players during the league's lockout. The team is based in the central Russian city of Kazan, about 450 miles east of Moscow.

Heatley pleaded guilty last Friday to second-degree vehicular homicide, driving too fast for conditions, failure to maintain a lane and speeding for his plea, 29, 2003, crash in Atlanta.

In exchange for his plea, the only felony charge — first-degree vehicular homicide — was dropped along with a charge of reckless driving. In addition to probation, Heatley was ordered to give 150 public speeches about the dangers of speeding.

Heatley, who was born in Germany, was selected by the Thrashers second overall in the 2000 NHL entry draft. He was rookie of the year in the 2001-02 season.

According to the International Ice Hockey Federation, more than 340 NHL players have signed with European clubs, although some have returned to North America.

### Magic activate Hunter, put DeClercq on disabled list

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic activated forward Brandon Hunter from the disabled list Thursday.

Hunter missed the last 30 games because of a hyperextended right elbow. He also sat out the season's first eight games due to right Achilles tendinitis.

In five games, Hunter averaged 2.6 points and 1.6 rebounds.

Center Andrew DeClercq was placed on the injured list with a sore right knee. He missed eight games, averaging 1.1 points and 1.3 rebounds.

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# Made, Odom leads Nets to victory

The Associated Press

Dwyane Wade and Lamar Odom did some of their best work in overtime.

Wade scored 10 of his 30 points in the extra period, leading the Miami Heat to a 116-110 victory over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Not far from Madison Square Garden, Odom capped a fine all-around performance with four points and a key assist in overtime and the Los Angeles Lakers broke a three-game losing streak with a 104-103 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Wade tied a franchise record with his 10 overtime points, and added six assists and six rebounds. He punctuated his stellar performance with a slick drive past Stephon Marbury.

Wade dribbled the ball between his legs three times before darting around the Knicks point guard and making a layup.

"He tried to force me to go to the big man, so I attacked the big man," Wade said. "I think I scored on that play."

I indeed he did, giving the Heat a 105-99 lead that the Knicks couldn't overcome.

The Heat's victory was its fourth straight.

"We're a little bit ahead of schedule," said Shaquille O'Neal, who had 16 points and 13 rebounds. "It's still a little to early to have that feeling. I don't know if we're going to be that consistent or not."

Marbury led a fourth-quarter comeback and scored 36 points

## Roundup

for the Knicks, who lost for the 17th time in 20 games. New York finished regulation with a 13-2 run.

Across the river at the Meadowlands, Odom had 16 points, matched a career best with 19 rebounds and set up a go-ahead three-pointer by Caron Butler with 1:54 left for the Lakers.

The Nets had no answer for the 6-foot-10 forward.

"We threw everybody we could at it," said Jason Kidd, who finished the game guarding Odom.

Kidd finished with 28 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists for his 63rd career triple-double, and Vince Carter scored 27 points on 9-for-23 shooting for New Jersey, which had won five straight at home.

"This is definitely a big win," said Jamaire Jones, who added 20 points. "It stopped the bleeding. It will take us into overtime with confidence."

The Lakers play the Pistons on Thursday night in a rematch of last year's NBA Finals.

**Wizards 95, Spurs 87** At Washington, Antawn Jamison had a season-high 35 points and 11 rebounds, Gilbert Arenas scored 24, and the Wizards took advantage of Tim Duncan's absence.

The Wizards won their third straight and averaged a 101-73 loss at San Antonio three weeks

ago. The loss snapped a five-game winning streak for the Spurs.

The Spurs played their second straight game without Duncan, who's out with a sprained right ankle but might return for Friday's game at New Jersey.

**Pacers 94, Bobcats 87** Jermaine O'Neal had 29 points and 10 rebounds, and Stephen Jackson scored 22 for Indiana, which has won for just the fourth time in 11 games.

Melvin Ely, starting his fifth straight game in place of injured rookie Emeka Okafor, led visiting Charlotte with 20 points and 17 rebounds.

**Bucks 110, Raptors 107** At Toronto, Michael Redd had 29 points, leading Milwaukee over the troubled Raptors.

Toronto point guard Raef LaFrentz wanted to see an apology after being benched for much of Tuesday's loss to Cleveland and that he's not sure he wants to stay with the Raptors.

**Grizzlies 98, 76ers 95** Dahntay Jones scored a career-high 23 points and Stromile Swift added 17 to lead visiting Memphis.

Allen Iverson, the league's leading scorer, had 16 of his 38 points from the foul line and 10 rebounds.

**Celtics 94, Clippers 89** At Boston, Paul Pierce had 25 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists to lift the Celtics.

Elton Brand had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers.

**Timberwolves 98, Nuggets 92**



Lakers forward Lamar Odom drives to the basket past the Nets' Jason Collins during the first quarter. Odom led LA to an overtime victory.

At Minneapolis, Eddie Griffin had 10 points, three rebounds and two blocks playing only the final 10 minutes of the game to help Minnesota snap a six-game losing streak.

Kevin Garnett led Minnesota with 24 points.

**Rockets 105, Bulls 92** At Houston, Tracy McGrady scored 24 points and Yao Ming added 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead

Houston to its season-high fifth straight victory.

Chicago got 16 points from Kirk Hinrich, and Tyson Chandler pulled down 20 rebounds.

**Hornets 91, Trail Blazers 80** Rookie J.R. Smith had 19 points and New Orleans won for just the ninth time overall and third time on the road.

New Orleans spoiled another fine performance by Damon Stoudamire, who had 30 points for the Blazers.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Boston	25	16	.609
Philadelphia	25	16	.609
New Jersey	20	21	.488
Toronto	20	40	.333
New York	19	38	.333

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	19	22	.460
Washington	19	22	.460
Charlotte	10	21	.279
Orlando	10	21	.279

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Cleveland	19	16	.543
Detroit	18	19	.485
Chicago	21	20	.512
Indiana	17	23	.429
Milwaukee	19	24	.442

### Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	39	11	.780	—
Dallas	31	16	.660	6½
Houston	29	21	.580	10

Memphis	29	21	.580	10
New Orleans	9	40	.184	29½
<b>Northwest Division</b>				
Seattle	33	13	.717	—
Minnesota	25	25	.500	10
Denver	22	27	.449	12½

Portland	20	27	.426	13½
Utah	16	33	.327	18½
<b>Pacific Division</b>				
Phoenix	39	11	.780	—
Sacramento	32	16	.667	6
L.A. Lakers	25	22	.532	12½
L.A. Clippers	22	25	.469	15½

Wednesday's games			
Milwaukee 104, New York 107	107	104	
Minnesota 98, Denver 92	98	92	
San Antonio 116, New Orleans 107	116	107	
Portland 107, New York 107	107	107	
LA Lakers 104, New York 107	104	107	

Thursday's games			
Atlanta at Orlando			
LA Lakers at Washington			
Sacramento at Seattle			

Friday's games			
Houston at Indiana			
Philadelphia at Toronto			
LA Lakers at Washington			
New York at Boston			
LA Lakers at New Jersey			
Denver at Cleveland			

Portland at Memphis			
Golden State at New Orleans			
Washington at Utah			
Seattle at Phoenix			

Saturday's games			
LA Lakers at Cleveland			
Orlando at Philadelphia			
Washington at Detroit			
Atlanta at Milwaukee			

Wednesday			
	W	L	Pct
LA Clippers	21	19	.524
Celtics	21	19	.524

Portland at Memphis			
Golden State at New Orleans			
Washington at Utah			
Seattle at Phoenix			

Saturday's games			
LA Lakers at Cleveland			
Orlando at Philadelphia			
Washington at Detroit			
Atlanta at Milwaukee			

Wednesday			
	W	L	Pct
LA Clippers	21	19	.524
Celtics	21	19	.524

Portland at Memphis			
Golden State at New Orleans			
Washington at Utah			
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Saturday's games			
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	W	L	Pct
LA Clippers	21	19	.524
Celtics	21	19	.524

Portland at Memphis			
Golden State at New Orleans			
Washington at Utah			
Seattle at Phoenix			



John Calipari, whose Memphis Tigers upset No. 9 Louisville 85-68 Wednesday night in Louisville, Ky., has a 300-120 record in 13 seasons at Massachusetts and Memphis.

# Calipari's 300th is upset of No. 9 Louisville

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville coach Rick Pitino insists that the ninth-ranked Cardinals should not yet be considered one of the nation's elite teams.

Now, he has a game film to prove it.

Freshman point guard Darus Washington scored 25 points and Memphis coach John Calipari earned his 300th victory Wednesday night in the Tigers' 85-68 defeat of Louisville.

The Cardinals (20-4, 8-2 Conference USA) were leading the nation in margin of victory coming in at plus-23, but were dominated from the start by the more aggressive Tigers.

"I knew it was coming," Pitino said, "I just didn't think it would be this bad."

Taquan Dean and Ellis Miles each scored 17 points for Louisville, which suffered its worst



home loss in four seasons under Pitino.

The Cardinals were outbounded 41-30 and shot a season-low 33 percent (19-for-58).

Rodney Carney added 24 points and Anthony Rice had 15 — all in the second half — for the Tigers (14-10, 7-3 Conference USA), who beat a Top 25 team on the road for the first time in five tries this season and snapped Louisville's nine-game winning streak.

"I'm calm now," said Calipari, who turned 46 on Thursday. "But when I get near the plane, I'm going to do some back-flips up the steps. I'm so happy."

Calipari has a 300-120 record in 13 seasons at Massachusetts and Memphis.

## No. 3 Kansas 74, Kansas St. 65:

At Manhattan, Kan. Wayne Simien, J.R. Giddens and Keith Langford combined for 65 points and the Jayhawks (19-1, 9-0 Big 12) withstood a late rally to post their 29th straight victory over the Wildcats.

Kansas has a 22-game winning streak on Kansas State's home floor, a run that began in 1994. Fred Peete and Jeremiah Massey each had 20 points for Kansas State (13-7, 3-6), which used a 14-2 run to get within 58-54 with 4:21 to go.

## No. 13 Michigan St. 83, Ohio St. 69:

At East Lansing, Mich. Chris Hill went 8-for-10 from the field and scored 26 points to lead the Spartans.

Hill was 6-for-7 from three-point range and made all four of his free throws in the highest-scoring game this season for Michigan State (16-4, 7-2 Big Ten).

Maurice Ager, who was bothered by an illness, scored 18 points on 6-for-7 shooting for the Spartans, while Alan Anderson added 16 points and Paul Davis had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

## No. 17 Alabama 72, Tennessee 54:

At Knoxville, Tenn. Kennedy Winston scored 18 points and Alabama outrebounded Tennessee by 24.

Chuck Davis had 16 points and a career-high 13 rebounds and Jeremiah Davidson added 16 points and 14 rebounds for the Crimson Tide (18-4, 7-2 Southeastern Conference).

C.J. Watson had 15 points for the Volunteers (11-12, 4-6), who have lost six straight to Alabama.

## No. 20 Wisconsin 72, Iowa 69:

At Madison, Wis. Kamron Taylor and Mike Wilkmon sparked Wisconsin's comeback from a 13-point second-half deficit.

Taylor, a sophomore, scored a career-high 26 points and Wilkmon added 20 points and four crucial blocks for the Badgers (16-5, 7-3 Big Ten), who trailed 52-39 with 12:43 remaining.

Greg Brunner scored 27 points for the Hawkeyes (15-7, 3-6).

## No. 25 Texas Tech 83, Baylor 67:

At Lubbock, Texas, Ronald Ross was 8-for-10 from the field and scored 25 points for the Red Raiders (15-5, 7-2 Big 12), who took control with a 10-0 run in the second half.

## Duke: Tar Heels fall painfully short again

DUKE, FROM BACK PAGE

With the seconds ticking away, he forced a pass to Noel, who lost the ball on the sideline and sent the Cameron Crazies into an ear-splitting celebration.

"It seemed like a long time, and I was just hoping that that clock went down before they got a shot off," Nelson said. "We played some great defense, and we made them try to do something that they weren't ready for."

Felton said he should've taken the open shot.

"It was a mistake I made," Felton said. "I was looking for Rashad on the other side of the screen, so I took it back out. He wasn't open, and Sean wasn't open on the slip. So the whole play just got terminated just like that."

North Carolina looked poised to stun the Blue Devils, rallying from a 67-58 deficit with about five minutes left. Felton finally managed to get penetration and score six quick points, while McCants — in the Tar Heels' only fast-break basket of the game — hit a layup to make it 71-70 with 51 seconds left.

Then came that painfully familiar feeling.

"They're around Chapel Hill will probably be talking about this game until we play them again," May said.

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## SPORTS



Commissioner Bettman sets weekend deadline for deal to salvage season, Page 28

# Duke dumps Carolina

## No. 2 Tar Heels dribble away last chance vs. No. 7 Devils

BY AARON BEARD  
The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — For the second straight year, Roy Williams watched North Carolina squander a chance to win in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

David Noel dribbled the ball out of bounds as the buzzer sounded, sealing the second-ranked Tar Heels' 71-70 loss to No. 7 Duke on Wednesday night. It was their 15th loss in the last 18 meetings with the Blue Devils, and fourth in a row at Duke.

It was another painful finish for the Tar Heels (19-3, 8-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) in an arena where they have won only once in nine years. Last season, they trailed by three points when Rashad McCants lost the ball in front of the Carolina bench with 4.4 seconds left in a 70-65 loss.

This time, they couldn't get off a final shot in a game in which they trailed most of the way.

"We'd have folded last year and got beat by 20," said Sean May, who had 23 points and 18 rebounds. "We had an opportunity to win. We just didn't make the play at the end."

The botched possession capped a night in which Duke's defense harassed Raymond Felton and the Tar Heels, who couldn't protect the ball, get out in transition or score the points that have come so easily all season.

Duke (18-2, 8-2) kept the game almost entirely in the halfcourt, slowing the pace and derailing an offense that came in averaging a national-best 92 points per game. North Carolina finished with 23 turnovers — eight coming from the normally sure-handed Felton — that led to 26 points for the Blue Devils.

Instead of running with the Tar Heels, Duke held the ball on many possessions, milking time and letting J.J. Redick, DeMarcus Nelson or Daniel Ewing drive in the waning seconds of the shot clock. The strategy worked perfectly.

"They slowed us down when they got the job done on offense," Williams said. "I mean, they spread the floor and controlled the tempo that way. And in their pressure defense, there's no question that bothered us, too."

Duke went 21-for-22 from the free-throw line, punishing the Tar Heels each time they failed to play foul-free defense.

When you're trying to play great defense for 35 seconds



Duke fans watch as North Carolina's Jackie Manuel falls into the crowd chasing the ball during the second half against Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C. on Wednesday. Duke won 71-70. North Carolina lost to Duke for the 15th time in the past 18 meetings and has won only once at Cameron in nine years.



Duke's J.J. Redick, left, guarded by North Carolina's Rashad McCants during the second half on Wednesday night, scored 18 points in Duke's victory.

every time and end up with a foul, that takes a lot out of the team," said McCants, who finished with 11 points on 3-for-13 shooting.

The Blue Devils committed 15 turnovers and shot just 36 percent, but built an early lead and answered every North Carolina run to keep momentum in front of a raucous crowd. North Carolina, which trailed 36-29 at halftime, twice tied the game only to see Redick and Ewing hit three-pointers on the following possessions.

Redick finished with 18 points and hit four threes, while Nelson provided a huge contribution with 16 points. That included two three-pointers in a span of about 90 seconds in the second half to help Duke take a 49-42 lead. The freshman also made all four of his free throws, belying his 51 percent season average — something a despondent McCants pointed out in the locker room after the game.

"It was obvious that DeMarcus just played at a level, or even a couple of levels, higher than he's played," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We really needed that. To win a game like this, at times you need something that's different from what you normally do. DeMarcus did that."

For the Tar Heels, Nelson's contribution was just one of several plays that turned the game in the favor of the Blue Devils. But it was their failure to get off the potential game-winner that stood out.

After Redick missed a three-pointer with the shot clock winding down, North Carolina got the ball with 18 seconds left. The play was designed for Felton to hit McCants on the wing or May inside, but neither was open. Felton spun away from Ewing and had an open look, but passed it up.

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